

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 114.—Vol. 4.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1857.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

It is somewhat curious to reflect how much the interest of all ceremonies has waned away. When the heralds proclaimed the recent peace, the crowd chiefly stared or laughed. Even the "Duke's" funeral was felt to be a little unintelligible, and scarcely concluded fitly—if we reflect how the evening was spent in London—things get so worn-out! The meaning of half the symbolism of our shows is forgotten; and the origin of our titles of honour and modes of decoration is unknown to the multitude. Reflections like these come often to the minds of men who mix with an interest in the old times of England a habit of studying their own day.

And yet a tradition in favour of ceremonies and symbols has come down with such strength from former days, that few are willing to give them up. They were all based, originally, upon reality—grew, in fact, out of real life, as blossoms do out of a tree. Every item of a coronation ceremony—of a Garter ceremony—had its significance and truth. Our hatchments in Great Gaunt Street—nay, our common funerals—have a historic origin. The truth is, that for every incident in the work of life, our ancestors had a corresponding symbol to serve as its ornament. They had a little ceremony for the common transfer of land, or for a dinner of citizens, as well as for crowning a sovereign or dubbing a knight. We still break a bottle of wine on the bows of a newly-launched ship; and probably the most utilitarian man alive would not be content to bury his grandmother or marry his daughter in as merely matter-of-fact a way as he pays a bill. There is an instinct in man in favour of ceremony, in fact, as much as in

favour of the beautiful or the humorous. A hustings mob, even in 1857, is not unimpressed by the cocked-hat of the sheriff.

Against this said old instinct, there has been a vast deal of fighting in modern times; and in the last century especially, the love of simplicity ultimately led some philosophers to abandon breeches. We have recovered from this extreme; and now-a-days, though "shams" are daily getting more and more exposed, it is possible to find people who combine with a love of this exposure a due regard for whatever has historical and natural foundations. This is our own point of view, as we frankly confess. Certain ceremonies are fairly done—let them go; but the love of ceremony has a genuine root in man—let it be wisely employed. There is no longer any propriety in a vast framework of forms which our progenitors chose to use for the adornment and protection of their belief. But shall all the ornament, and grace, and pomp, and courtesy of public life go likewise? We hope not—and chiefly for the sake of the vast working multitude who have little enough access to what amuses or excites—to spectacle or to show; and whose lot (we may add) never improves when an age becomes exclusively prosaic, business-like, and matter-of-fact.

Few things would have seemed more improbable, five years ago, than a new "order." The time for such things seemed gone by. Nor is this wonderful. The last new thing of the kind, the "Legion of Honour," became vulgarised in less than half a century. Our own ancient honours have been too often prostituted from political motives; and many and many a "knight" of our day would have found it hard to win his spurs in the times when knighthood meant real leadership.

But the war has revived many old-fashioned sentiments, by touching that source of all sentiment, the heart; and London now flocks, with an eagerness that is semi antique, to see a ceremony quite old-fashioned in character—to see her Majesty distribute to distinguished soldiers the Victoria Cross. While it recalls old days, let it teach us to prepare for future ones.

The attraction of the ceremony of this week is precisely the old attraction of all ceremony, that it symbolises something *real*. The Cross is to reward valour, and to be given for valour only. It is not the case of a Lord Rottenborough getting the Garter; it is not the case of a money-grubber being made a baronet: it is the case of honour being rewarded with the symbols of honour. A red ribbon, a blue ribbon, may on some men be only a fine bit of haberdashery; but we know when a man carries this cross on his bosom, that he carries also something fine in his heart. If every mark of respect were given as honestly, what a very different thing would our Government be!

We suppose that this is the last public ceremony to arise out of the Russian War, and it is as well that it should be a worthy one, and that, moreover, it should be rightly understood. On looking back to that war, not one feature of it gives unalloyed satisfaction, except the individual good conduct which this cross recognises. It was begun in ignorant and short-sighted want of preparation, and after a blind and bungling diplomacy discreditable to British intellect and British firmness. It was continued with a want of head—want of Government at home and on the spot, want of care for the morrow—



THE NEW STATE APARTMENTS AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE: THE CORRIDOR ON THE EVENING OF HER MAJESTY'S STATE BALL.

all causing suffering, shame, and death, such as has only been known in the worst periods of history. It was concluded unsatisfactorily, and after an enormous cost; and its blunders were made glaring, and attained a kind of infamous permanence of character, by being associated with rewards lavished on the blunders. All this the British public knows and admits. But then it likewise glories in knowing that under every circumstance of disaster its soldiers displayed the old qualities of the English people, and somewhat redeemed the errors of the war thereby. That fact remains a permanent source of satisfaction; and hence the Victoria Cross, as an honour unconnected with politics, remains the truest, justest honour which the war produced to any person, and well deserves, therefore, to be inaugurated with enthusiasm.

Such enthusiasm is sound, for it is excited by generous sentiments, such as are rarely found excited except by the actions of private life. Government in these days is as common-place a matter as any other business; of public men of action, only a soldier can hope to get that kind of personal regard from strangers, which is the noblest reward of a public career; and war being rare, he cannot get it often. However, when his chance comes, it is right he should get it liberally—it elevates his profession, and it purifies the public itself by directing its admiration into a right channel, into what is worthy of admiration, as distinct from the idols set up at every corner of the street. This seems to us the valuable feature of such displays as that of the present week in Hyde Park. To respect the truly respectable, is the first lesson that a nation ought to learn, the most necessary lesson, here and now. It is the issue of the Victoria Cross should rather "depreciate" the currency of "honour," by somewhat lowering the other symbols not so wisely bestowed, we should not regret it. So infinite is the importance of peoples only respecting the true and the real.

But perhaps the popular feeling may excite some wise reflections in the "governing" mind. What if it stimulate to Army Reform—to a wiser distribution of rewards—to a recognition of other high qualities as well as valour? When posterity hears of the successful soldier of the reign of Victoria, that—

—a crown he wore,
Which Jews might kiss and Infidels adore;"

let it likewise bear that provision was made for his education, for his comfort, for qualifying him more and more to defend his country at home and distinguish her abroad. Our statesmen talk of teaching the people—let them, on this point, condescend to learn from them. The people are ready to show honour when it is due—to pay for reforms when they are necessary. There never was a time when the army was more popular. But there are a thousand subjects to succeed each other during the coming years; and if the habit of discussing Army Reform be lost, the question will soon go to sleep again. At all events, we shall not be ten years hence in a position to be taunted with indifference to military matters and questions. The public shows its good will—let the army authorities show their ability.

THE COURT NEWSMAN.

The court newsmen have been unusually busy for some time past. On Thursday week the Queen held a levee. Saturday was the anniversary of her Majesty's accession to the throne, and it was celebrated, as usual, with the ringing of bells, and the hoisting of flags, and the firing of guns. In the afternoon of this day her Majesty held a court for the reception of addresses to the throne. The Archbishop of Canterbury, wearing his convocation robes, read an address from the archbishop, bishops, and clergy of the province of Canterbury in convocation assembled. The address congratulated her Majesty on "the blessings which it has pleased Heaven to continue to your Majesty and your illustrious Consort"—blessings happily shared by the country at large—and at the same time offered a loyal condolence for the loss of that Princess whose decease marked the removal of a generation of the royal house of England. The address then went on to regret the great spiritual desolation, which had out-grown the number of the clergy and the funds available for their support. The question of education was next touched upon; and the various grants for the promotion and support of schools gratefully acknowledged. Her Majesty having replied, in a speech which was an echo of the address, the archbishop and the deputation retired. An address of congratulation on the birth of a Princess was afterwards presented by the mayor and corporation.

These events, however, were on Tuesday eclipsed—for the Court Newsmen—by the solemnity of

THE DRAWING-ROOM.

This, the second drawing-room of the season, was brilliantly attended. The great inconvenience and annoyance experienced from the crowding on the last occasion, if it failed to reduce the attendance to-day, had the effect of bringing many from their homes at an early hour. Several carriages took up their position before eleven o'clock, and at twelve the line extended from the palace to the top of St. James's Street. The morning was extremely warm, and the time thus spent by the ladies can scarcely be included amongst the pleasant moments of the day. The improved arrangements at the palace, however, rendered the subsequent fate of "our fair countrywomen," less painful than might have been expected. The newsmen inform us that her Majesty wore a train of black silk, trimmed with ruffles of crape and bunches of black flowers, made in feathers; the body ornamented with diamonds. The petticoat black silk, with a tuile of black crape and bunches of black flowers in feathers. A diadem of diamonds and opals, with black feathers, formed her Majesty's head-dress.

The Princess Royal wore a train of white glacé silk, trimmed with crape and bugles. Petticoat of the same material, and trimmed to correspond. Ornaments, pearls. A wreath of white flowers formed her Royal Highness's head-dress.

The Princess Mary of Cambridge wore a train of black glacé silk, trimmed with crape, bugles, and bunches of fruit, flowers, and black grass; the body ornamented to match. The petticoat, two skirts of black crape, the under trimmed with bouillottes of crape and black ribbon; the upper skirt richly trimmed with bugles. Pearl necklace and ear-rings. Her Royal Highness's head-dress was composed of black feathers, a black tulle veil with jet, and a diamond tiara.

HER MAJESTY'S STATE BALL.

Her Majesty's first state ball of the season, took place on Wednesday evening, when there were present all those distinguished scions of rank and fashion, who were so fortunate as to obtain tickets of invitation. A large number of members of both houses of the Legislature were of course present. We all know that although every man of distinguished position, no matter what his politics may be, would as a matter of course receive an invitation from her Majesty, yet it is equally certain that the ministry of the day exercises some sort of control over a portion of the invitations issued, with the view of securing political support. Many a wavering country gentleman, and many a doubtful ministerialist, has been fairly gained over by a well-timed invitation for himself and his lady, to one of the few state balls and concerts given by her Majesty during the parliamentary session.

As may be expected, the young Prince of Prussia and the Princess Royal were, of all the individuals composing the brilliant circle gathered together on this occasion, the two in whom the greatest interest was felt. They were, during the dances in which they took part, and indeed throughout the entire evening, the observed of all observers.

On the occasion of this magnificent assemblage of rank and fashion, youth and beauty, the new state rooms lately added to the Palace were opened, in addition to the ordinary state apartments. The grand hall, staircase, picture gallery, and drawing-rooms were illuminated and decorated in the usual manner.

These new apartments have been constructed from the design and under the direction of Mr. J. Pennethorne, architect. The sculptures which adorn them are the work of Mr. W. Thedé; and the decorations have been carried out from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. Lewis Gruner, who availed himself of the services of Mr. A. Miller and Signor Canzoni, at Rome.

A branch of the Grand Staircase of the Palace leads to the first apartment, called the Corridor, or Promenade Gallery, which forms the subject of the engraving on the preceding page. This is a room of 95 feet in length and 31 in height, with a curved roof, from which the apartment receives its light. Like all the other rooms, it is decorated in the style used in Italy during the sixteenth century, usually called "cinque cento."

The lower part represents an open gallery, with vases filled with flowers under its arches; above these a series of panels has been introduced, with chiaro-oscuro paintings of groups of cupids. Eight colossal classical busts by Mr. W. Thedé are placed along the walls on marble columns. This gallery admits on one side to a new ante-room to the state apartments, and on the other to the banqueting-room. The principal exit, however, is by a large and richly gilt folding-door into the ball and concert-room, opposite to the staircase entrance.

On another occasion we shall publish engravings of the remaining rooms comprised in this elegant and tastefully-decorated suite of apartments.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE French elections commenced on Sunday. Little excitement was observable in Paris on that day, but on Monday some political feeling was exhibited at the various *mairies*, where the polling was held. The result, so far as Paris is concerned, is shown in the following list, from which it will appear that the Republicans have triumphed in three departments:—

FIRST DISTRICT (Circoscription).	SIXTH DISTRICT.
M. Guyard-Delaunay (Govt.) ... 10,070	M. Goudchaux (O.) ... 13,042
M. Laboulaye (Opposition) ... 4,676	M. Perret (G.) ... 10,464
M. J. R. Renaud (O.) ... 1,682	
SECOND DISTRICT.	SEVENTH DISTRICT.
M. Devinck (G.) ... 10,472	M. Lanquetin (G.) ... 10,609
M. Bethmont (O.) ... 9,070	M. Darimon (O.) ... 6,825
	M. Bastide (O.) ... 3,617
THIRD DISTRICT.	EIGHTH DISTRICT.
M. Cavaignac (O.) ... 10,345	M. Fouché Lepelletier (G.) ... 13,820
M. Germain Tibaut (G.) ... 10,108	M. Vavin (O.) ... 9,033
	M. Simon (O.) ... 2,268
FOURTH DISTRICT.	NINTH DISTRICT.
M. Varin (G.) ... 9,633	M. Koenigswarter (G.) ... 11,507
M. Olivier (O.) ... 6,741	M. de Lasteyrie (O.) ... 6,966
M. Garnier-Pagès (O.) ... 2,749	
FIFTH DISTRICT.	TENTH DISTRICT.
M. Carnot (O.) ... 12,034	M. Véron (G.) ... 15,416
M. Monin-Jossey (G.) ... 8,426	M. Pelletan (O.) ... 7,240

The voting led to no result in the 3d, 4th, and 7th districts, the candidate highest on the list having obtained an insufficient majority. A second ballot is to take place in these cases. A large number of voters abstained from the elections. In the first district 33,392 votes are numbered, and only 16,586 votes were given; the other districts sent up about the same proportion of electors. In the provinces, the Government has been almost universally successful. Only nine opposition candidates have been returned. Cavaignac was defeated in the provincial towns where he was nominated. The Count de Montalembert was defeated by the Government candidate in the Doubs.

The town of Châtelain-sur-Loire, which suffered severely from the inundation, is visited by a fresh evil in the shape of an epidemic, which commences with measles, and carries off the patient in three days. The deaths from this new complaint number four and five daily.

The Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, England, Prussia, Russia, Sardinia, and Turkey, met on Friday (the 19th) at the ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the purpose of signing the treaty for the frontier settlement in Bessarabia, and for regulating the question of the Isle of Serpents and of the Delta of the Danube.

A visit of the Emperor and Empress to England is rumoured.

SPAIN.

THE resignation of Marshal Serrano as ambassador at Paris has been accepted.

In consequence of intelligence relative to the Spanish-Mexican question which had reached Cuba, General Concha ordered the departure for Vera Cruz of part of the Spanish squadron. Accordingly two steamers, *Colon* and *Isabel II.*, sailed on the 13th. The hopes of a pacific arrangement were said to diminish every day. In Cuba it was feared that the United States would excite Mexico to hostilities against Spain.

SWITZERLAND.

THE Neuchâtel Government has issued a notice to sixty-six of those implicated in the acts of last September that they may return home and take part in the elections. The Federal Council have refused to restore certain royalist papers, on the ground that they now belong to the Federal archives.

AUSTRIA.

A GRAND festival has been held in Vienna in honour of the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Military Order of Maria Theresa. The festival was opened by a salute of 101 guns. Afterwards a grand mass was performed before 30,000 men, and in the presence of the Imperial Family. At the Gospel, Consecration of the Host, and Te Deum, the troops fired by platoons, and the guns on the ramparts gave the responses with a vigour which terribly shook the nerves of the female spectators. In the evening the Emperor gave a grand banquet, at which, amidst thunders of applause, his Majesty proposed a toast, "To the memory of the Empress Maria Theresa, the illustrious founder of the Order! To the Knights of my Order of Maria Theresa! To my valiant army, and to its leaders!" The Emperor afterwards went to the opera, where some tableaux, proper to the occasion, were exhibited. The house was crowded with all the most illustrious personages in the empire.

According to advices from Vienna, all the editors of the journals of that city have received orders to moderate their tone and language on the subject of foreign affairs, in order not to give any further cause for remonstrances.

RUSSIA.

THE Emperor, with the Empress and the Grand Duke Michael, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Gortschakoff, Count Adlerberg, and Prince Delgorouki, were to embark on the 23rd for Kiel. From Kiel their Majesties were to proceed to Wildbad and Kissingen. The Emperor is expected to return to St. Petersburg in July with the Empress-Mother, the Grand Duke Michael, and the Princess Cecilia of Baden. The rumour that during the trip of the Russian Emperor he will meet his "Brother of France," probably in the neighbourhood of Darmstadt, is repeated.

The Grand Duke Constantine arrived at St. Petersburg on the 15th. The Czar has authorised the erection of a church in the cemetery at Sebastopol, in honour of the brave men who fell in the defence of that place. The expenses will be defrayed by a national subscription.

The cholera is gaining ground in St. Petersburg, as the weather becomes warmer. The average number of deaths there at present is 70 per day.

M. de Morny was to leave St. Petersburg on Saturday for Paris.

ITALY.

THE Chevalier Boncompagni was recently sent to Bologna by the Sardinian Government to meet the Pope. This proceeding having been questioned by the Chamber of Deputies at Turin, Count Cavour replied that the mission of Chevalier Boncompagni had no political significance; it was simply a mission of courtesy. Notwithstanding the disputes existing between Turin and Rome, the Piedmontese Government had never ceased to revere in the person of the Pope the religious chief of the immense majority of the population. It appeared expedient to perform an act of courtesy towards the Pontiff, who was approaching the Piedmontese frontier.

The Pope has granted pardons to advocate Francesco Sturbinetti, Pre-

sident of the Constituent Assembly of Rome in 1849, and to Count Antonio Mariscotti, who commanded a military body under the Republic. The latter has already returned to Rome.

The Archduchess Maria Louisa, sister to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, died at Florence on the 15th.

Letters from Rome describe a very bad feeling as existing between the French soldiers and the Papal troops, and as having betrayed itself in numerous serious street fights. On a recent occasion five Frenchmen were wounded, and as many of their antagonists. At Civita Vecchia similar disturbances have taken place.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

A GREAT conflagration is reported to have broken out in the seraglio at Constantinople. The fire broke out in a building where the white eunuchs live, and destroyed the piazza of the inner gateway, which is said to be 400 years old, and which was adorned with very curious and ancient Chinese tapestry.

The nephew of the Prince of Montenegro was assassinated while walking on the quay at Buyukdere with the secretary of the Russian Legation and a Russian officer. The murderer walked deliberately up to his victim, shot him, and then escaped. The deed has some political significance.

PERSIA.

THE Minister of the Shah has caused the Afghan Prince of Herat, who had been taken prisoner, to be decapitated; he also wished to execute the brother-in-law of the Shah, who was accused of holding a correspondence with the English Minister during the war; but the French Ambassador succeeded in obtaining a commutation of the sentence, by pointing out that these condemnations were a violation of the stipulations of the treaty. The uncle of the Shah of Persia, who was condemned to death for having taken part in the revolt of Herat, which led to the war, has been pardoned, on condition that he shall leave the country and go to live in Europe.

AMERICA.

ACCORDING to the Washington correspondent of the "New York Herald," Governor Cass, in a despatch of twelve pages, had apprised Lord Napier that he declined to re-open for the present negotiations on the Central American question.

The election riots at Washington terminated after the discharge of firearms upon the mob by the marines. Six persons are known to have been killed; the wounded number sixteen. It is said that the Marines were not ordered to fire on the mob, but that they did so in self-defence. An indignation meeting has been held, at which speeches strongly condemnatory of the mayor were made.

The Secretary of the Treasury is of opinion that there will be a surplus of 22,000,000 dols. in the government's strong box at the end of the current fiscal year. In view of these considerations, Secretary Cobb is to recommend an external reduction of duties.

Brigham Young is carrying things with a high hand in Utah. The saints have commenced the work of expelling the gentiles. Judge Stiles, the United States marshal, the surveyor, and a large number of others, have left the territory, fearing their lives were in danger. If the news is to be credited, the issue between the Mormon leaders and the government is fully made up, and General Harney and his troops will not reach Utah a moment too soon. General Harney is ordered to publish a proclamation on his arrival at the Salt Lake offering protection to all persons in the territory who may wish to escape from the oppressive rule of Brigham Young. Colonel Cummings has accepted the difficult office of Governor of Utah. The militia system of the territory has been re-organised, and the entire military force put in a state of efficiency.

The steam-ship *Mississippi* has been ordered to proceed to China forthwith.

A storehouse situated in Furman Street, Brooklyn, with its contents, consisting of 1,598 hogheads of sugar, 450 barrels of molasses, and 200 hides, has been destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at nearly a quarter of a million of dollars.

Lord Napier, who has already the reputation of being the most popular minister ever sent from Great Britain to Washington, gave a grand ball in celebration of her Majesty's birthday.

UNION OF THE DUCHIES OF GOTHA AND COBURG.—The Diet of the Duchy of Saxe-Gotha, in its sitting of the 18th, adopted unanimously the proposition for a complete union of the two Duchies of Gotha and Coburg. The Diet was immediately after wards prorogued. It is supposed that the Diet of Saxe-Coburg will vote in the contrary sense.

PLAYING THE CONQUEROR.—The following is an extract from a mercantile letter, dated Lima, May 12:—"Vivanco effected a landing here of his troops to the number of about 700, and attacked Callao on the morning of the 22nd of April, but met with no sympathy, and after a sanguinary conflict in the streets, in which about 200 fell or were mortally wounded, only one man returned to him on board the frigate. On Sunday last, the rest of the squadron (the frigate remaining with him) entered the bay and surrendered to the constitutional government."

THE COOLIE TRAFFIC.—The Merchantman, from Calcutta, which arrived at Demerara on the 13th of May, with 260 coolies, had lost no fewer than 113 in the passage. This fearful mortality arose from several causes: the coolies were the "refuse" of those collected for the Mauritius and other places; the arrangements of the ship were injudicious; and the coolies were too well fed—changes had been made in the dietary tables, so that the Hindus got better and different food than they had been accustomed to.

PERFORMANCES OF THE RIFF PIRATES.—The following ships belonging to English owners were captured by Riff pirates off the coast of Morocco since Jan. 1, 1850, which gives the following results:—The *Ruth*, captured April 30, 1846, value £1,970; recaptured (when a total wreck) by the *Fantome*. The *Three Sisters*, captured Nov. 2, 1848, recaptured by the *Polyphème*; the damages to the ship valued at £1,408 13s. 9d. The *Violet*, captured 3rd or 5th of Oct., 1851, value £5,400; the *Janus* was sent to recover this ship, which was burnt, to prevent her falling into its hands. The *Vampire*, 41 tons, pursued 13th of August, 1853, but not captured. The *Cuthbert Young*, 298 tons, captured 20th June, 1854, recaptured by the *Prometheus*; damages to the ship and cargo valued at £1,700. The *Lively*, 264 tons, captured 2nd of May, 1855, recaptured by the *Conference*; the crew of the *Conference*, in escaping, found the *Lively* deserted; got on board, and brought her safely into Gibraltar. The *Conference*, captured 2nd May, 1855. The *Hymen*, 343 tons, captured 14th of May, 1856; total wreck.

IRELAND.

DECLINE OF PAUPERISM IN IRELAND.—The tenth annual report of the Poor-law Commissioners for Ireland has been published. The number of inmates on the 1st of May was 55,312. The weekly summaries of out-door relief show very little fluctuation; the average number of recipients was under 1,000, and the average weekly cost less than £43 per week. Both summaries (in-door and out-door) exhibit a further material decrease of pauperism and of expenditure in Ireland. The total expenditure shows a decrease of £108,869, no less than 16 per cent.

GREAT FIRE IN A CORN MILL.—The mill, new patent mill, and a large stock of corn and flour, on the Grand Canal, near Richmond Barracks, Dublin, have been totally consumed by fire. It was fully covered in a Liverpool insurance office.

SCOTLAND.

CHEESE COMPETITION.—The district of Mauchline, in Ayrshire, is rather noted for the quality of the cheeses manufactured in it. That there be no hating in improvement, it has been arranged to have, in the autumn, a cheese competition, which will not be confined to Ayrshire, but be open to all. The conditions of the competition are, that every competitor shall enter three cheeses, the weight of each not being less than 36 lbs. One of these is to be considered a stake. The first prize is to be £15, the second £5. To the dairymaid who makes the cheese which gains the first prize a silver medal, with a suitable inscription, is to be presented.

ALLAN RAMSAY'S STATUE.—A colossal block has been placed in the studio of Mr. John Steel for the statue of Allan Ramsay, the poet, about to be erected on the terrace of Ramsay Gardens. The block was supplied by Mr. David Lind, from Binny Quarry, and is considered a very fine specimen. Its weight was about sixteen tons.

A NOVEL WAY OF DISPOSING OF A PRIZE ESSAY.—In a Scotch newspaper a prize of £100 is offered for the best temperance tale, and a certain model is pointed out (price one shilling), which the competitors are to follow. As the number of writers of twaddle of the prize essay kind is legion, an enormous sale may be justly anticipated, so that the unsuccessful authors will have at least the satisfaction of contributing to the prize money.

THE PROVINCES.

DEPLORABLE CASE.—Sarah, the wife of Mr. Bellson, farmer, of Bonnington, formed an improper intimacy with a man named Sidney. The intercourse was discovered by Bellson, and notwithstanding that he promised to forget and forgive, all his efforts to recall her to a sense of duty failed, and she ultimately went away with her lover, taking a boy about twelve months old with her. Nothing more was seen of her until a few days ago, when she returned to the village, bringing back not only the little boy but a female child, of whom Sidney was the father. None of her former friends would recognise her. Deserted and in want, the wretched woman drowned herself and the illegitimate child in the Stour. A coroner's jury ordered her body to be buried by torchlight.

BANKING.—Mr. Commissioner Hill, in the Bristol Bankruptcy Court, has refused a certificate to George Worrall Jones, banker, Crickhowell, because he had "neglected all the safeguards against ruin which honest traders have devised for their own protection and that of their creditors." This "banker" began business with a borrowed capital of £5,000; he led people to suppose that his bank was a branch of the Brecon Old Bank, of which firm he had borrowed his capital; he kept no cash-book; he probably did not know, from keeping no proper accounts, how long he had been insolvent; but he told a person he was solvent at a time when he could hardly have believed that he was. The deficiency of his estate amounts to £40,000, and the creditors will get only 1s. 6d. or 2s. in the pound. Protection, however, was granted to Jones during good behaviour.

AN "OWDHAMITE" AT THE MANCHESTER EXHIBITION.—A native of Oldham went to the Art-Treasures Exhibition, at Manchester, last week, and seated himself on one of the settees, where he sat patiently for a considerable time. At last he beckoned a policeman to him, and thus addressed that functionary. "A w ay, ow d chap, when's this exhibition goin' to begin; a w've waited here an' hawer and a hawer on't?"

FORGING A COUNTY COURT PROCESS.—A tradesman named Downey, of Fopsham, was committed for trial at Exeter, last week, on the charge of forging the name of Mr. John Daw, registrar of the Exeter District County Court, to an illegally concocted summons. It was stated that persons travel about the country, and make a good living by selling documents in imitation of county court summonses, which are printed in Holywell street, London. These are purchased by small tradesmen, who send them to tardy debtors in order to frighten them into payment. To make the process complete, it is necessary to forge the signature of the registrar. This Downey did, and posted the letters in Exeter, so that it might appear to the debtor that they came from the office of the registrar. By the County Courts Act, the offence is felonious. It was stated by Mr. Daw that he believed the prisoner did it in ignorance of the consequences; but still it was a serious offence, and people must be made aware thereof. The magistrate committed Downey for trial.

IMPORTANT TURNPIKE DECISION.—The extension of steam machinery to agricultural pursuits has led to a great deal of litigation and dispute between toll-collectors and farmers before the local magistrates in many county districts, and we are glad that the question has at length been decided. A case tried before the Judge of the Bath County Court, for the recovery of two shillings "for toll of a carriage on wheels, drawn by horses, and bearing a steam-engine—the engine being used for working a machine which, when put in action by the steam-engine, threshes corn, cuts chaff, winnows the corn, and puts it into the sack," was decided against the toll-keeper; on the ground that agricultural implements are not liable to toll, and that the machine in question was an agricultural implement.

TRADE STRIKES AT LIVERPOOL.—The cabinetmakers and stone-masons of Liverpool are in the fourth week of their strike for an advance of wages, and there appears to be no present prospect of an arrangement. The stone work at several large piles of extensive offices in the neighbourhood of the Exchange has come to a standstill.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.—Two men were killed by lightning last week, in the neighbourhood of Inkpen, Berkshire. They were mowing a lawn when a thunder-storm came on; they then took shelter under a tree, contrary to the advice of a companion, who himself took refuge in a neighbouring cottage. The storm having abated, he went out and found both his companions dead under the tree.

CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.—A little boy and girl left their homes at Sennen Cove (near the Land's End), to go in search of gulls' eggs. The boy tried to reach some eggs at a spot where the cliffs are very precipitous, and the girl, who was a little older, was aiding him, when his feet slipped. His companion held him for a minute; then she was compelled to relinquish her hold; and the hapless child falling to a depth of between two and three hundred feet, was dashed to pieces. On Wednesday week, Thomas Hughes, employed in filling a wagon at the Holyhead quays, while a blast was being fired at a considerable distance, did not observe the signal made, and unfortunately proceeded with his work, when a stone thrown from the blast struck him on the head, felled him, and caused instantaneous death. A chained lunatic, named Chaplin, was being conveyed by rail from Exeter, when all at once he fell down on his knees, apparently at prayer; but in an instant, and before it was possible to prevent him, he sprang out of the window of the carriage while the express train was at its full speed. When picked up, it was found that his collar bone was broken. A few days ago, a boy was amusing himself, near Birmingham, by firing ball at a door; one of the bullets went through and severely wounded a boy on the head. On Tuesday week, a shoal of porpoises having gone up beyond the Earl of Morley's bridge, which crosses the estuary of the Lura, above Catwater, Plymouth, were attacked by a number of men in boats. The unusual sport attracted many spectators. Unfortunately, a shot appears to have struck the head of a porpoise, and, flying up, wounded the arm of a young man named Poppleton, afterwards passing through the body of Jonathan Coker, a shipwright, who died shortly after. A lad of sixteen, engaged at Price's Candle Factory, went to sleep near a gas-stove; his apron caught fire, and in a few moments he was enveloped in flames. So severely was he burnt that he died the next morning.

THE ANNUAL "COMMUNION" AT OXFORD has been held this week. The festivities passed off very brilliantly. On Wednesday, degrees were conferred upon Sir Colin Campbell, Sir W. F. Williams, Mr. Dalnis, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir J. M'Neill, Mr. R. Stephenson, Sir J. Brunel, Dr. Livingstone, and other celebrities.

THE EXPENSES OF THE CHINESE WAR.—Two despatches, respectively dated 25th January, 1857, and 12th March, 1857, were addressed by Sir John Bowring to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, requesting two separate grants of £10,000 to defray the expense of measures of precaution and defence for Hong Kong. In reply, Mr. Labouchere states that the Government will ask Parliament for a vote of credit for £10,000 for Hong Kong, but that the second application cannot be complied with without a more satisfactory explanation of the precise objects towards which the aid is to be applied.

CHURCH-RATES.—An influential deputation, chiefly composed of members of both Houses of Parliament, waited on Lord Palmerston some days since, to lay before him certain statements respecting church-rates. They estimate the loss to the church by the abolition of this rate at £350,000. They state that in 9,672 parishes, rates were granted by 8,280; that in 544 there is no other provision; that in 440 opinion is not decided with respect to the rate; and that in 408 only have the rates been refused. "It appears, therefore, that the parishes which grant the rate amount to more than ninety-five per cent. of the whole." The Marquis of Blandford, Sir John Pakington, Lord Redesdale, and Lord John Manners, were the chief speakers. Lord Palmerston thanked them for the information with which they had supplied him.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN THE LAW COURTS.—The Prince of Wales was present at the trial of the case *Sidbottom v. Adkies*, before Lord Campbell, on Monday. This case strongly illustrated the folly and viciousness of gaming; and it is not too much to expect that the youthful Prince was sufficiently warned by the details which he listened. Mr. E. James, who opened the case for the plaintiff, endeavoured to improve the occasion by reading a lesson to his Royal Highness, but was checked by Lord Campbell with a gentle but impressive shake of the head.

MEMORIAL TO LORD CLIVE.—On Tuesday—exactly a hundred years since Clive fought that Battle of Plassey which led to the acquisition of India—a meeting of gentlemen was held in Willis's Rooms, to consider the "services of the hero who laid the foundation of the British Empire in the East a century ago, and which have hitherto been commemorated by no public monument." The meeting was very well attended, but not so numerously as it would have been had not her Majesty held a drawing room on the same day. The meeting having been addressed by Lord Stanhope, Lord Dunsborough, Sir J. W. Hogg, and other gentlemen, it was resolved to erect a statue in some conspicuous site in Sireasbury, the chief town of Lord Clive's native county. A committee was formed to carry out this project, towards which the East India Directors have given £500.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—The Royal Commissioners have presented their report on the site of the National Gallery. The Commissioners recommend that the National Gallery shall be left where it is. This was the chief point at issue, and was decided, with only one dissentient in favour of the more courtly theory which would have removed the Gallery to South Kensington.

A NOVELIST TO THE RESCUE.—Sir Benjamin Hall gave a party to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge last week. In the course of the evening, a young lady, niece to the Right Hon. Baronet, went out on the balcony with a friend to look at the variegated lamps which were hung amid the ivy. Some parts of her head-dress fluttered over the flames, it ignited, and in one moment she was wrapped in a blaze. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, however, was near her. With considerable presence of mind, he tore off his coat and enveloped her completely, putting his hat on her head, her hair being already on fire, and so the flames were extinguished. The whole scene was beheld from Hyde Park, where a number of persons were collected looking at the illumination when the accident occurred.

THE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Educational Conference was opened by Prince Albert on Monday, at Willis's Rooms. The purpose of the Conference was to consider the various causes which militated against the education of the people.

In opening the Conference, Prince Albert alluded to the difference of opinion which had arisen on the subject of national education. "The common object," his Royal Highness remarked, "has been contemplated from the most different points of view, and pursued upon often antagonistic principles. Some have sought the aid of Government—others that of the Church to which they belong; some have declared it to be the duty of the State to provide elementary instruction for the people at large; others have seen in State interference a check to the spontaneous exertions of the people themselves, and an interference with self-government. We find on the one hand the wish to see secular and religious instruction separated, and the former recognised as an innate and inherent right to which each member of society has a claim, and which ought not to be denied to him if he refuses to take along with it the inculcation of a particular dogma to which he objects as unsound; whilst we see on the other hand the doctrine asserted that no education can be sound which does not rest on religious instruction, and that religious truth is too sacred to be modified and tampered with, even in its minutest deductions, for the sake of procuring a general agreement. Gentlemen, if these differences were to have been discussed here to-day, I should not have been able to respond to your invitation to take the chair, as I should have thought it inconsistent with the position which I occupy, and with the duty which I owe to the Queen and the country at large. I see those here before me who have taken a leading part in these important discussions, and I am happy to meet them upon a neutral ground." The Prince then, alluding to the great advance which education had already made of late years, pointed to the fact that since the beginning of the century, while the population has doubled itself, the number of schools, both public and private, has been multiplied fourteen times. But even now, the total population in England and Wales, of children between three and fifteen, being 4,908,646, only 2,046,848 attend school at all—the remainder receive no instruction at all. Again, out of the fortunate two millions, more than a million and a half remain only two years at school; and only 600,000 are above the age of nine. "You, Gentlemen," said his Royal Highness, "will richly add to the services which you have already rendered to the noble cause, if you will prepare public opinion by your inquiry into this state of things, and by discussing the causes of it, as well as the remedies which may be within your reach. You will probably trace the cause to our social condition, perhaps to a state of ignorance and lethargy in difference on the subject amongst the parents generally, but the root of the evil will, I suspect, also be found to extend into that field on which the political economist exercises his activity—I mean the labour market—demand and supply. To dissipate that ignorance, and rouse from that lethargy, may be difficult; but, with the united and earnest efforts of all who are the friends of the working classes, it ought after all to be only a question of time."

Lord Brougham, the Bishop of London, and the Rev. Canon Moreley, also spoke on the importance of impressing upon parents the value of education. The Conference was then declared open.

The business of the Conference was renewed on Tuesday morning at the Thatched House Tavern. In order to systematise the work, the Conference was split up into four sections, presided over respectively by the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Lyttelton, Sir J. K. Shuttlesworth, and the Dean of Salisbury. In these various sections, papers on various subjects connected with education were read and discussed. Thus, in Section A, a paper was read by Mr. G. D. Goodman, on the school and the factory in Birmingham, showing that only forty-two per cent. of the children in Birmingham, between the ages of seven and thirteen, were at day-school—the rest were altogether idle, or in the factories. In Section B, Mr. Joseph Kay read a paper on the age at which children leave the elementary schools in various countries of the continent of Europe. The Rev. T. Nash Stephenson, of Shirley, near Birmingham, read a paper, entitled "A consideration of the expedients which have been proposed for keeping the children of the working class longer at school, and an examination into the nature and administrative machinery of prize schemes," of which the lecturer greatly approved.

In Section C, the Rev. C. H. Bromby read a paper on "Voluntary Half-time Schemes." The difficulties in the way of this and similar plans arose (said Mr. Bromby) in manufacturing districts, from the demand for juvenile labour; in agricultural districts from the indifference of parents. The question to be discussed resolved itself into this—how far could they persuade the employers of labour that the scheme will not diminish their material profit? Mr. Bromby thought the half-time system, if reduced to practice, would produce a double benefit—it would secure to now over-worked districts the blessings of instruction, and by the introduction of relays it would transfer a number from the streets into the fields of remunerative labour. He recommended 150 hours each half-year between 10 and 12 years; 100 hours between 12 and 14; a smaller number of school hours at a later period, as a matter of moral discipline and social advancement.

In Section D, Miss Carpenter read a paper on the subject of juvenile delinquency. In the majority of cases she thought juvenile delinquency did not arise from poverty, but from the evil associations to which she had adverted. A large array of statistics was adduced in support of this view of the case. Miss Carpenter believed that high intellectual training would never arrest the progress of crime, a strictly moral education being the only safeguard.

Various other papers were read, and discussed in all the sections—on industrial training, on "endowments created for the apprenticeship of children," &c., &c. At the close of the business of the day reports were drawn up by the secretaries, embodying the contents of the papers, and the chief suggestions made upon them in the course of the discussions which followed.

These reports were presented at a final meeting at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday. The Bishop of Oxford, Chairman of Section A, reported his opinion that the early removal of the children of the working classes from school (at from nine to ten years of age), destroys the due effect of the education provided for them; that this early removal is commonly traceable to the poverty of the parents, and the demand for the children's labour; in some instances to an objection to the rules of the school, in others to its unsympathetic character, and in others to the ignorance and carelessness of parents. The remedy for all this might be by the improvement of the schools themselves, and bringing moral and religious influences to bear upon both the parents and children. A resolution founded on these conclusions was proposed by the Bishop, seconded by Sir J. Pakington, supported by the Marquis of Lansdowne, and carried unanimously.

The report on Section B was read by the Right Hon. W. Cooper, which stated that in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, and in France, measures are adopted which result in a much better and longer school attendance than prevails in England, and that these measures are deserving of consideration. In Holland, the forfeiture of the right of a parent to receive parochial relief, in the event of his having neglected to send his child regularly to school, has been efficacious.

Sir J. K. Shuttlesworth read the report from Section C. The report strongly sanctioned the certificate prize system, and recommended that it should have a more extensive trial. This recommendation, as in the previous cases, was embodied into a resolution, which was carried by the meeting.

The report of Section D, read by the Dean of Salisbury, was upon the subject of half-time schools; these had been adopted in certain localities with such success, that a resolution, recommending them for further trial was proposed and passed. The report was also in favour of evening schools; and suggested that if the voluntary system is to be worked with success, an appeal must be made in the first instance to employers.

The report of Section E gave an elaborate outline of the papers read. It concluded as follows:—"That inasmuch as industrial training is calculated to impart to the children of the working classes habits of industry; to qualify them for manual employments, which are those by which they are afterwards to live; and to enlist the sympathies of the parents by its useful, practical, and remunerative tendency, it is desirable to encourage to the utmost the introduction of the industrial element in our schools for the working classes."

The conference then adjourned. A committee is to be appointed to prepare a report of the proceedings, and to determine the time and place of the next meeting.

TURNPIKE FRAUDS AND MALICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

SIR,—If I have "put myself in the position of a common informer," as expressed in a paragraph of your last paper, informations under similar circumstances must be common. The circumstances under which you say, that it seems, that in my last interval of liberty I contrived to discover some supposed dereliction of duty on the part of somebody connected with a turnpike set up somewhere near Winchester, are, that I am arrested for the costs of non-suit in an action to recover the tolls of the road in question; that the arrest was on my return from laying an information against the Registrar of the Trustees, and was effected by a counter-information by telegraph; and was the means of preventing conviction; that my information was for not filing the last year's account; that my affidavits show I believed the Treasurer had advanced the costs; that such an advance would not only be a misapplication, but would exonerate me; and, lastly, that the fact of the advance (if made) should appear by the account, and if once made, though the money were replaced, the ratification of the account would be a nicety. I, however, do not admit that I have put myself in any such position, and regret that I cannot; for I must observe that the Rebecca riots were solely occasioned by turnpike extortions which legally subjected the extortioners to the unmitigated penalty of £5 for every offence, but the turnpike law not being enforced, the rebellion law was which would not have been necessary if I had had an "interval of liberty" at that bloody epoch.

I request insertion of this in answer to your paragraph remarking on

Queen's Prison, June 24, 1857.

Your obedient Servant,
W. CORRETT.

THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.

A MAN, named Spollin, in the employ of the Midland Great Western Railway Company as a painter, has been arrested on suspicion of having murdered Mr. Little, at Dublin.

The house of the elder Spollin has been searched by detectives, and the stolen notes and gold found. The wife of Spollin states that the £43, which it will be remembered were found in a cistern, soon after the murder, were placed there by her husband. It was upon his wife's information that Spollin was arrested.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

THE Queen of the South, from Bremen, reports that at midnight, when about seven miles from the South Foreland, she observed two vessels a short distance ahead, steering the same course. Suddenly one of the vessels altered her course, and ran under the bows of the Queen of the South before she could bring up, by which she was cut down to the water's edge, and immediately sunk. It proved to be the brig Atlanta, Captain Allen. Three of her crew jumped on board the Queen of the South, four others were picked up by the boats; but a boy is missing. Captain Beale, of the Queen of the South, the fourth officer, and the pilot, were on the bridge at the time the catastrophe took place. The Atlanta was bound from Southampton to Sunderland for coals.

It is reported that a large steamer, the Durham, of London, for Sierra Leone, went on shore at an early hour on Monday morning, during a fog, near Dungeness. We are not aware whether any serious damage has resulted from the accident, but from the absence of intelligence respecting her it is probable that she has succeeded in getting off, and has proceeded on her voyage.

From Shetland we hear that, on the morning of Wednesday week, while the haaf-boats were prosecuting the fishing, they were overtaken by a sudden and severe gale of wind, by which three boats were lost, with all on board. Each boat was manned by six men.

OBITUARY.

EYRE, SIR JAMES.—On the 19th inst., suddenly at Clapham, aged 65, died Sir James Eyre, M.D., of Lower Brook Street. He was the eldest son of the late Rev. William Eyre, vicar of Padbury and Hildon. He was born in 1792, and married in 1816, a daughter of the Rev. Edward Vardy, rector of Yelvestoft, Northamptonshire, and incumbent of Market Harborough. He was formerly a surgeon in practice at Hereford, of which city he was Mayor in 1829-30, and received the honour of knighthood on presenting an address from that city to King William IV. on his accession to the throne. He subsequently took the degree of M.D. at Edinburgh, and practised as a physician at the West End of London.

EVERSLEY, LADY.—On the 19th inst., in Ebn Place, aged fifty-nine, died the Right Hon. Emma Laura, Viscountess Eversley. Her Ladyship was the youngest daughter of the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq., of Carlingford, Bedfordshire, and grand-daughter maternally of the 1st Earl Grey. In 1817, she became the wife of Mr. Charles Shaw Lefevre, who, after having represented the Northern Division of Hampshire for many years, and having filled the Speaker's chair from May, 1839, till the recent dissolution, was elevated in April last to the peerage as Viscount Eversley. Her Ladyship leaves behind her three unmarried daughters to lament her loss.

GAGE, LADY.—On the 13th inst., of a sudden attack of apoplexy, died the Right Hon. Viscountess Gage. Her Ladyship was Elizabeth Maria, eldest daughter of the late Hon. Edward Foley, and was married to Henry, 4th and present Viscount Gage, in the Irish peerage, in March, 1813. Her Ladyship has left a family of three sons and four daughters, of whom one is married to the eldest son of Viscount Gort.

THE FRENCH IN KABYLIA.

The French under Marshal Randon have opened a new campaign against the Kabyles, and have met with their usual success. The engraving which we publish on another page, represents our old Crimean friends the Zouaves storming the position of Igli-Guefri, and is from a sketch by one of the officers engaged on the attack, which is thus described by the "Moniteur Algérien."—On the 24th of May, about four o'clock in the morning, the French troops marched against the Kabyles, some of whom had taken up their position on the summits of Idj-r and Akerna mountains, which it was necessary the French should ascend before they could get at the enemy. On arriving at the foot of these mountains, they proceeded under cover of artillery to attack the village of Ticheraich, through which they had to pass, and which was strongly defended by the Beni-Ratens, a tribe celebrated both for numbers and courage. After making a most determined resistance, the Arabs were compelled to abandon their position. The French troops now commenced the ascent of the mountains, a task which they accomplished without impediment until they reached the village of Belas, the approaches to which presented many difficulties, only to be overcome under a heavy fire and at the point of the bayonet. General McMahon, who led the troops, now hastened on to attack the position of the Kabyles on Affensou, which at six o'clock, only two hours after the commencement of operations, was in the hands of the French.

On reaching the summit, the General descried at a short distance the village of Imaiveren, and although his troops were greatly exhausted, and the village was defended by a numerous force of Kabyles, he determined on an attack. The result was again successful. While McMahon's troops were thus fighting their way to the summits of the Idj-r and Akerna, another division, under the command of General Yusuf, was making its way towards Igli-Guefri, situate to the right of the lesser chain of the Akerna mountains. Overcoming a determined resistance from the Kabyles, who attacked them on all sides as they approached by the valleys, General Yusuf's forces at length reached the mountain slopes, which they began to ascend in three columns. The right column, commanded by General Gastu, consisted of two picked battalions of Zouaves, led by Colonel Collineau, of the first battalion of the 60th Regiment of the Line, and of two companies of Riflemen. This column was to attack the village of Igli-Guefri from the front.

The left column, including the 15th battalion of Chasseurs à Pied, the 2nd battalion of the 45th Regiment, and the 3rd battalion of the 1st Regiment of Zouaves, was commanded by General de Ligny, and was to storm the position of Taguemont and join the division of General McMahon.

The centre column, formed of battalions from the 68th and 75th Regiments, was led by Colonel Chanatiller, and was to attack the village of Igli-Guefri on the right.

The right column having to ascend a more difficult path than the others, was the first to take the field, when the General soon discovered that he had to overcome unanticipated difficulties. The Kabyles, entrenched behind stockades, poured volleys of musketry among the French troops as they climbed the rugged sides of the mountain. The general, not wishing to expose his troops to such wholesale slaughter, at once gave orders to the Zouaves and the 60th to charge, which they did with such daring impetuosity that they drove the Kabyles before them, and eventually planted their colours on the summit of Igli-Guefri—the stronghold of the most powerful and dangerous tribe of the Kabyles.

THE COOLIE EMIGRATION FROM CHINA.

It is an established fact, that the Chinese labourer can accustom himself to varieties of climate better than any other. Whether under the burning sun of the tropics—among the snowy steppes of Siberia—in countries rank with vegetation—or in arid and desert countries, he still plods on, preserving that love for labour by the force of which he everywhere succeeds, when other men fail.

The Spanish, Dutch, and English colonists, aware of these qualities, have at all times been anxious to encourage a Chinese immigration, and in many instances have furnished subsidies for that purpose, and that the principal manufactures of the Celestial Empire might also be imported.

Of late years voluntary emigration from China has not been sufficient to meet the demands for labour in the various colonies. This has induced the formation of societies, which send agents to the different ports in the provinces of Canton and Fokien, to induce the people to emigrate. Their plan is this:—They offer to the emigrant an engagement for a certain number of years (from five to ten) to go either to Cuba, Chili, Peru, California, Australia, or Isle of Bourbon, under the direction of a superintendent whom they appoint. During the engagement they undertake to board and pay him from ten to fifteen shillings a month. But that he may, before setting out, purchase some sort of outfit, pay the commission which the emigration agent never fails to exact, and leave some means with his family, he is paid on signing the articles of agreement a sum equivalent to three years' wages. He is then allowed a few days' liberty, that he may get rid of his money, and is then taken on board a ship already chartered for this traffic, and is carried to the colony in which he is to pass the greater

part of his future life, if not to end it.

From the moment the ship's anchor is weighed, the poor Chinaman's trials and sufferings commence. As many as five and six hundred poor wretches are crammed between the decks, deprived of air and the light of day. The ship runs short of provisions and water; the wretched emigrants gradually die off; their bodies are thrown to the sharks; and at the end of the voyage, those who still survive are little better than skeletons. It rarely happens that the captain of the ship is a man of much feeling; and, as if to accustom them to the treatment they are destined to receive from the planter to whom they may be ultimately consigned, the "cat" is freely used upon the helpless emigrants. It happens, however, that the tables are occasionally turned, and that the Chinese become the chief actors in the tragedy.

We have said that it is customary to advance the emigrant a sum equal to two or three years' wages. What is the consequence? A certain number of depraved rascals agree to offer their services, receive the advance, and trust to opportunity and their own daring to cancel the agreement they have signed. The day for their departure arrives; they embark with every appearance of sincerity; there is nothing in their manner to raise the slightest suspicion; but as soon as the ship is fairly at sea, the conspirators throw aside the mask, and rise against captain and crew.

In some instances the officers of the ship have time to arm themselves and repel the attack, and thus in many cases hundreds are shot down; the survivors, cowed by this example, suffer themselves to be put in irons, where they are kept for the remainder of the voyage. But it also happens that the captain and his crew, unprepared and overwhelmed by numbers, are butchered. Not all, however; when the ship is out of sight of land, the conspirators promise to spare the life of one of the seamen on condition that he steers the ship to the coast, on reaching



THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA: ZOUAVES STORMING THE POSITION OF IGHIL GUEFRI.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. AMELLER.)

which they plunder her of everything valuable, and then set fire to her.

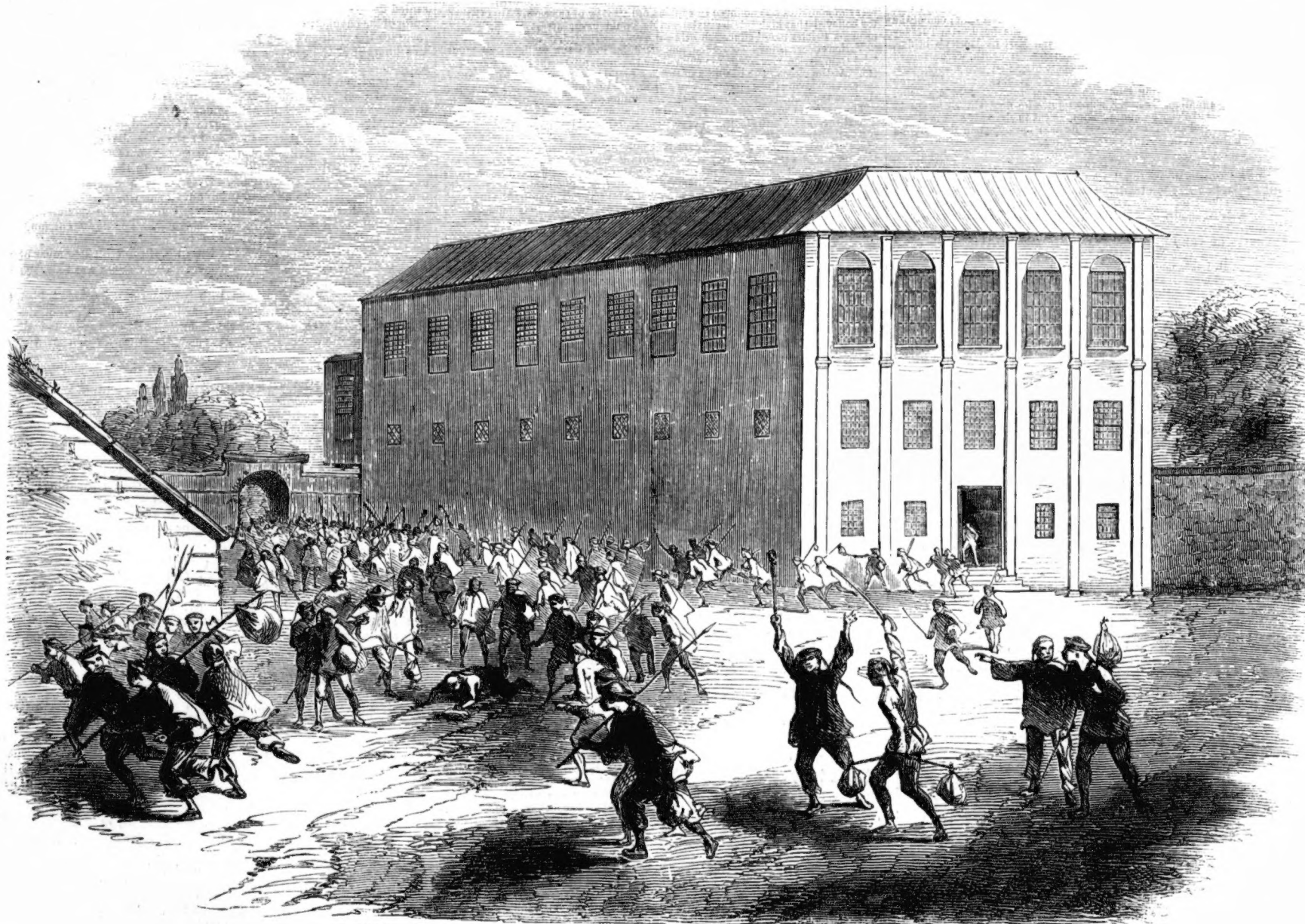
But there may be left alive no European capable of working the ship, which is then allowed to drift at the mercy of the elements.

That any European authority should encourage such traffic seems incredible. It is said, however, that certain consuls have assisted and speculated in the raising of these emigrant hordes for the different countries in America which they represent; and it is further stated that the Portuguese Government at Macao, closing their eyes to the doings of the emigration agents, actually provide a depot, in which are confined the hapless Chinese, as soon as they have received the advance of pay. In this depot, which has all the security and all the horrors of a prison, the emigrants are kept until they embark.

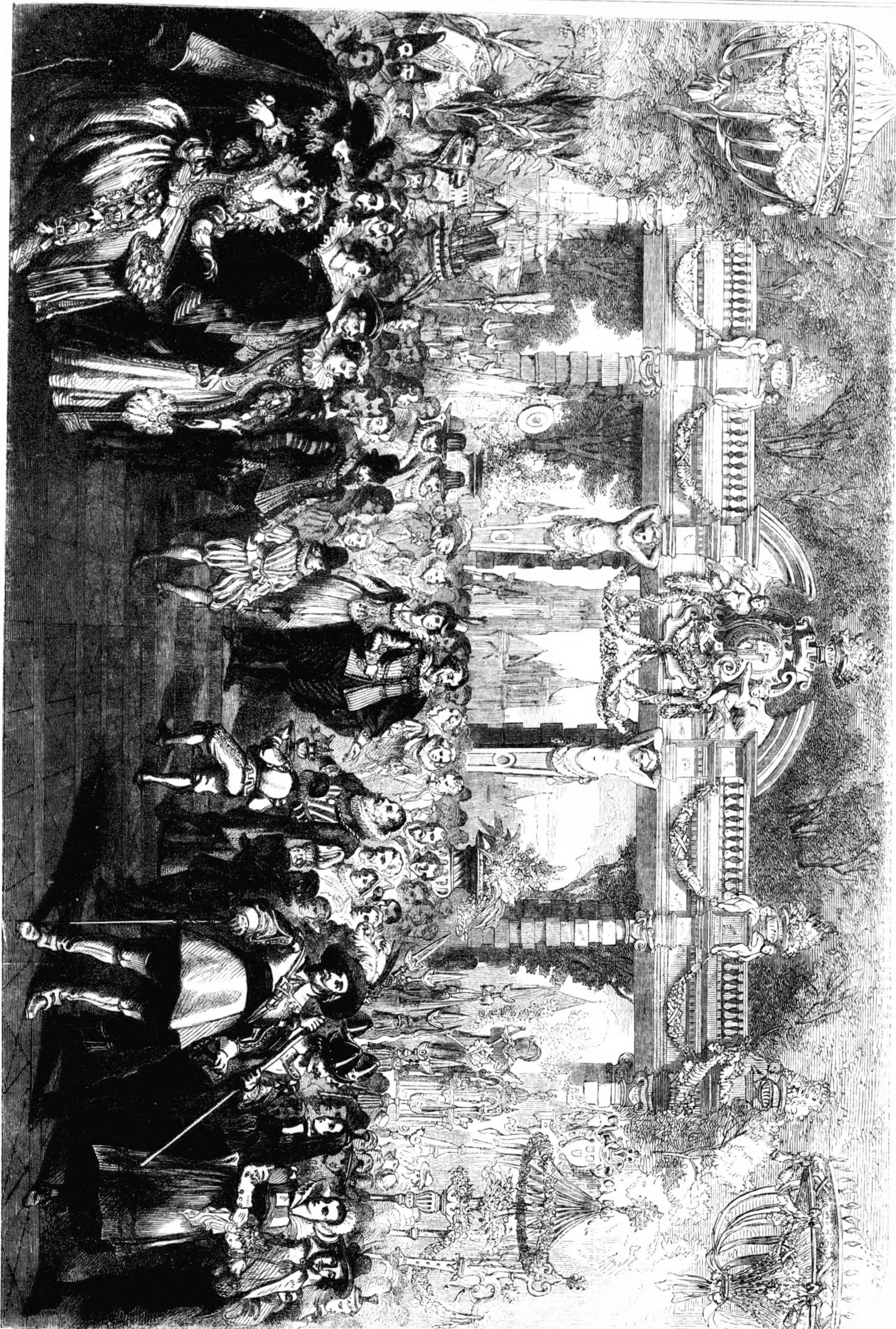
Recently a large factory was turned into one of these depots. The windows were strongly secured with iron bars; the doors were lined with sheet iron, otherwise well secured, and moreover guarded by armed men. Notwithstanding all this precaution, on the 2nd of April last 250 Chinese burst open their prison door by united pressure, and in a few minutes were flying in all directions before the Governor could take any steps to secure them.

This event, over which foreigners, and still more the Chinese, have laughed heartily, will be a loss to the emigration agents of at least £1,500. But one trembles to think of the horrors which might have been perpetrated a few days later had these 250 emigrants been embarked with the already planned intention of evading the agreement they had signed.

Representations have been made by several respectable residents at Macao, as to the inhumanity of this traffic, and we may now hope, that during the international conferences, which we suppose will terminate the war, the great maritime nations, who crushed the traffic in African flesh and blood, will also put an end to this trade, now not less barbarous, openly carried on along the eastern coast of China.



CHINESE COOLIES, DESTINED FOR CUBA, ESCAPING FROM THE DEPOT AT MACAO.



THE ARTISTS' FESTIVAL AT MUNICH.

THE RUBENS' FESTIVAL AT MUNICH.

In several of the Continental cities art and good fellowship are promoted by an Artists' Festival, annually held. These festivals are always very attractive from the good taste exhibited in all the arrangements, from the decorations of the salons, &c., to the costumes that figure in the fancy-dress ball with which they are almost invariably brought to a close. This year a happy idea imparted universal attraction to the festival at Munich—the art-loving capital of Bavaria—the King himself, and several members of the Royal Family being present at it.

It seems that in the year 1630, the citizens of Antwerp gave a festival in honour of the marriage of their celebrated countryman, Peter Paul Rubens, with the beautiful and wealthy Helena Formao, the painter's second wife; and the directors of the Munich ball conceived the idea of getting up an accurate representation of that event—costumes, decorations, and all. Accordingly, the great Odeon-Salle was fitted up so as to represent the Town Hall of Antwerp, with a view of the city through the windows. The pillars, and the range of boxes round the Odeon-Salle, were tastefully draped or decorated with flowers and foliage, and at intervals were placed medallion portraits of the principal painters contemporary with Rubens.

The King and the Royal Family having taken their places, amidst the greetings of the assembled company, a flourish of trumpets announced the commencement of the Festival, which opened with a grand procession.

This cortege was headed by standard-bearers and halberdiers, followed by heralds, the Burgomaster of Antwerp, the Senators, and the Secretary of State, Philip Rubens, brother of the painter. Next followed Rubens and his young bride, preceded by a group of ladies, splendidly attired and followed by pages. Then came the guests invited to the festival, among whom were conspicuous Vandyke, Cornelius de Vos, Gerard Honthorst, W. Sandrart, Adrian van Ostade, John-Breughel, Adam van Oort (Rubens's first master). Peter Hooft, the poet and historian, appeared as deputy from the Chamber of Rhetoric at Amsterdam. He was followed by deputies from other cities, and by one from the court of the Archduchess Isabella.

Next followed another train, composed of citizens and guilds, huntsmen and archers, and the members of the Dutch East India Company, all of whom were preceded and followed by their standards and emblems, and accompanied by their ladies. The entire cortege was closed by a party of peasants and country girls, carrying the May tree and accompanied by rustic musicians.

The various groups being ranged in picturesque order, and Rubens and his bride being conducted to the places assigned to them, the ceremony of the *huldiging* (homage) commenced. The Master of the Silversmiths' Company stepped forward, and presented to Rubens an elegantly wrought silver goblet, as a token of the influence of art on the taste and skill of the handicraftsman and manufacturer. It is this part of the proceedings that our illustration represents. Members of other Guilds presented gifts betokening their several trades and employments, and finally a young peasant advanced with a garland of wild flowers for "Antwerp's fairest Lady." Rubens and his bride having gracefully acknowledged these complimentary offerings, the procession was re-formed and took its way out of the saloon.

The feeling of surprise which involuntarily took possession of the mind whilst this splendid living picture was gradually unfolding itself, prevented the beholder from bestowing any great attention on the details of the spectacle. But when wonder had subsided into admiration, the spectators could duly appreciate the ingenuity displayed in the grouping of the figures, as well as the fine taste and historical accuracy manifested in the costumes. Especially charming was the disposition of colour. The costumes of Rubens and his wife were composed of silk and velvet of the richest texture, in tastefully-blended hues of yellow, violet, and brown. Not less tasteful and characteristic were the dresses of Vandyke and the poet Hooft. The nobles and burghers with their wives were all attired with strict historical accuracy, and the snow-white caps with lace borders, worn by some of the females of the humbler ranks, were particularly becoming. The merchants of the East India Company were conspicuous figures in the pageant, and a richly-caparisoned camel which followed in their train, attracted marked attention. The emblems of the different trades and corporations were most beautiful, and bore evidence of the perfection resulting from the union of artistic taste and mechanical skill.

The more ceremonious features of the Festival having been brought to a close, dancing commenced, and was kept up with spirit until a late hour.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 48.

ADJOURNMENTS.—COUNTS OUT.

To gentlemen who have not studied the rules and orders of the House of Commons, and who have had no opportunity of watching their operation, many of them appear to be very ridiculous. For instance, the right of any member at any time to move the adjournment of the House; or that the chairman in committee "do report progress," or that the House be counted. To the gentlemen aforesaid it seems absurd that it should be in the power of any member thus to stop the proceedings of the House. But a little thought and observation will prove that our ancestors who framed these rules and orders were no fools. And that, though the liberties which they give may be and are sometimes abused to factious purposes, they are nevertheless not framed without much thought and foresight, and are often found to be very useful in protecting the country from crude, hasty, and unseasonable legislation, and in preventing the hurrying through the House by Government of important measures late at night, when most of the members have long since gone away. Take as an example the following little scene which lately occurred:—

SIR FREDERICK THESIGER AND MR. AYRTON.

The time is half-past one o'clock in the morning, and the House (mark that) has been in session ever since twelve o'clock at noon, when the order for committee on "The Metropolitan Grand Juries' Abolishment Bill" is called, and Sir Frederick Thesiger moved, that the "Speaker do now leave the chair." To this there is no opposition, and so the House at once resolved itself into committee, and Mr. Fitzroy moved that "clause one do stand part of the bill." And now rises Mr. Ayrton, to oppose "the further consideration of the measure at such an unseasonable hour." The bill affected his constituents; it was a measure which abolished a very ancient institution; moreover, he had several amendments to propose, which it was clearly impossible to consider at that hour; and still further, all the rest of the metropolitan members were gone, not dreaming that such a measure would be pushed through at such a time. Very reasonable all this, as it would seem, we fancy, to all reasonable men. But Sir Frederick Thesiger is a very lofty person, he does not often condescend to take charge of a bill, and now that he has so condescended, he cannot bear to be thwarted by a *novus homo* like Mr. Ayrton. And moreover he is backed by the Government, and so he not only refuses, but refuses in a very petulant and haughty manner. "He had waited all night for the bill, at great sacrifice. The Hon. Member knew this; and also knew that Sir Frederick's avocations were such that this prolonged attendance must be a very serious cost. He thought that the conduct of the Hon. Member savoured neither of courtesy nor of charity."—(Hear, hear, from the Irish Member, Mr. Napier, who declared that he would sit by the side of his Hon. Friend until six o'clock in the morning.)—Now, if Mr. Ayrton were a timid man he must here have given way, rolled up his amendments, and left Sir Frederick to pass the bill. But it is clear he is not a timid man; for notwithstanding Sir Frederick's lofty bearing, and Mr. Napier's threat, and the Ministerial cheers, he simply repeats his objection, and renews his request, and when he is again refused, quietly moves that "the Chairman do leave the chair." Upon this, the committee divided, and there were for Mr. A. four, and for Sir Frederick some thirty-eight. The committee therefore resumes its course, and clause one is again read. But shall it pass? we shall see. If Mr. Ayrton be steady and firm, it will be as impossible to pass that clause, as it would be to remove Ailsa Rock from its base, notwithstanding the packed majority in its favour. Mr. Ayrton:—"Sir, let not the House for a moment suppose, that it is obstinacy or mere fancy that leads me to oppose this measure. I cannot allow these clauses to stand without amendment. I cannot and will not discuss amendments at two o'clock in

the morning; therefore I again move, that you report progress, and leave the chair, and ask leave to sit again." Lord Palmerston—"I hope the Hon. Member will not press his opposition. The bill is a good bill, and has the support of the Government." I trust the Honourable Member will consult the convenience of my Honourable and Learned Friend, and allow the bill to pass committee." Mr. A.—"I do not think the bill a good bill as it stands." And so the question is again put, and with the same result. And now, says the reader, of course the bill goes on. Not so—Mr. A. may, if he pleases, go on repeating his motion until it be time for the Speaker to come in again; but he does not repeat his motion at all, for he sees another weapon lying ready for his hands. In the first division, there were some forty-three members—in the second, forty-one; and it does not escape Mr. Ayrton that two or three have since slipped away. When, therefore, once more the Chairman reads clause one, and once more Sir Frederick refuses the request of Mr. Ayrton that the bill may be postponed, Mr. Ayrton utters the fatal words which, once uttered in the House, cannot be recalled—"I move then, Sir, that the House be counted." This is done, only thirty-eight members are present, the House is adjourned, and Sir Frederick's bill is postponed at last. On the merits or demerits of this bill we say nothing. Our object is to show how certain rules of the House, which some people think absurd, may be and often are, in the hands of sturdy men, formidable and effective weapons, to defeat hasty, unseasonable, and jobbing legislation. What the merits of the bill are, we know not nor care; but if it be the most valuable of boons, it ought not to go through so important a stage between two and three o'clock in the morning; especially if the member or members whose constituency it specially affects entertains an objection. Mr. Ayrton showed uncommonly well in this little episodic battle. He was calm and courteous, but inflexible. Neither the petulance of Sir Frederick, nor the courtesy of Lord Palmerston, had any effect upon him. From what we have heard and seen, we should not be surprised to find that there is some good parliamentary stuff in Mr. A. He must, though, take care that he does not fall into the fatal failing of speaking too often.

THE FIRST GOVERNMENT DEFEAT.

Who said that the Palmerston majority would prove to be a good working majority?—serve us a spaniel at the ringing of the division bell! and that, now the House was cleared of all the crotchety and independent members, the old-fashioned government by party would again be possible? It is all a mistake; government by party is no longer possible. In every successive Parliament there will be more independent members than in the last, and this Parliament is no exception, notwithstanding the exciting circumstances under which it was chosen. Every year Hayter's whip gets more powerless, and every year his calculations more perplexed and uncertain. During the first few weeks his hopes may have been excited when he saw the new members at the ring of the bell rush up to his support, and read the magnificent results on the division paper; but during the last fortnight these hopes have been rudely disturbed. On all great party questions, such as the Jew bill, he is safe—but these are not the questions to which he looks with most anxiety. It used to be a saying of Billy Holmes, a former "whip"—"Of course you will vote for us when we are right; what we want is a majority that will vote for us when we are wrong." And that is what Mr. Hayter wants—a good working majority; one that will vote and ask no questions—such an one as used to obey the flourish of Holmes's thong. But this is not now to be got, and will never, never be seen again. The present generation showed the Government a taste of its quality on Hardy's Beer Bill, when it gave Mr. H. a bare majority of 31. But on another question last week—to wit, the Scotch survey job—it left the Government in a minority of 10. This was the first Ministerial defeat of the Parliament. It was amusing to see the perplexity of the "whip" on this occasion. "Halloo, Hayter," said one, "you ought to have whipped better than that!" "Whip! Why, how could we whip when we did not know friends from foes?"

PRIVILEGE.

On Friday night the House suddenly and unexpectedly found itself investigating a case of privilege. And a curious affair it turned out to be. It was brought before the House in the shape of a special petition from Mr. Newall, of the well-known firm of McDougal and Newall, Parliamentary agents, who are engaged in prosecuting a petition of certain inhabitants of Rochdale against the return of Sir Alexander Ramsay, who defeated Mr. Miall at the late election. As cases of privilege take precedence of all other business, no sooner was Mr. Newall's petition presented, than all other business stopped. And the petition having been read, some member moved that Mr. Newall be called to the bar; whereupon Mr. Speaker put the question in the usual form, and having declared that it was carried, ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to call Mr. Newall, and bring him to the bar, which was done accordingly, and Mr. Newall was questioned on the contents of his petition. The allegations were that one Lord and Johnstone had attempted to bribe a man named Rothwell, who had been summoned as a witness to give evidence before the Rochdale Election Committee, all of which allegations Mr. Newall was requested to restate; and then the following conversation took place between Mr. Speaker and Mr. Newall:—

Mr. Speaker—You say, then, Johnstone offered Rothwell £50 to get out of the way?
Mr. Newall—Yes, sir.
Mr. Speaker—Did Rothwell take the money?
Mr. Newall—No, sir.
Mr. Speaker—Did he give any reason why he did not?
Mr. Newall—Yes, sir. He said he thought that he ought to have a hundred. (Roars of laughter, in which the Speaker could hardly refrain from joining.)
Mr. Newall was then dismissed, and Rothwell was called. This gentleman is a Rochdale man; was dressed in a snuff-coloured suit, and spoke with a strong Lancashire accent; but he was not long at the bar, and after the disclosure of Mr. Newall, did not make much impression upon the House. Lord and Johnstone were not in attendance. The House, therefore, passed orders that they should be summoned, and then went on with the usual business, and the summoning officer, accompanied by a policeman, went to discover the whereabouts of the offenders. After some considerable search, they found them at the Elephant and Castle, and they were duly served. Lord obeyed the summons immediately, but Johnstone, the greater culprit, seemed to have some doubts about the security of his liberty, and demurred for a considerable time. At last, however, he came,—walked into the lobby—inquired for Sir Alexander Ramsay, who of course was not there, and then having made sundry other inquiries, and finding his doubts about his liberty confirmed, he quietly walked away. A policeman was ordered to watch him, and he was followed, and seen to get into a cab; but, alas, when the cab stopped, he was not there. Probably, as he rode in the cab his doubts grew stronger and stronger—were rather confirmed than weakened, if he had observed the movements of the policeman; and so he quietly opened the door of the cab whilst it was in motion, "sloped" down the first dark lane that he came to, and banked the enemy. It may be asked why the policeman did not arrest him. The answer is, that he had no power. The document served upon Mr. Johnstone was only an order—hitherto no warrant for apprehension had been issued. Subsequently, when the House was informed of Mr. Johnstone's contumacy, the Speaker issued his warrant, and he will be arrested thereon by the police—when they can catch him. All this seems strange enough to simple people, but we are told that it is strictly according to rule, and therefore there is nothing further to be said. Later in the evening Lord was examined, and a good deal of discussion ensued, whether he should be detained as a *particeps criminis*; but it was ruled by the authorities that he ought to be allowed to go at large. A select committee is now sitting upon the alleged breach of privilege, but to what end we cannot divine, when the principal offender is gone.

THE BALLOT.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Ballot Society, held on Tuesday, it was arranged that the first of the projected general meetings should be held on Monday evening next, at six o'clock, and that it should be proposed to such meeting to adjourn to two o'clock on Tuesday, the 30th, the day on which the ballot motion is to be made in the House of Commons, and from thence to Wednesday, July 1, at twelve at noon. A deputation was appointed to wait on the Hon. Charles Sumner, of Massachusetts, to invite him to address the meeting.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord REDBURN called the attention of the House to the circumstances which attended the resignation of the See of Norwich by Dr. Hinds, and wished to know if the Government were prepared with any measure to facilitate the resignation of Bishops who were unable to discharge their episcopal functions?

The LORD CHANCELLOR entered at length into the state of the law as regarded the resignation of Bishops in general. With regard to this particular case, Dr. Hinds had resigned the See of Norwich, without any intimation as to a retiring pension. The great difficulty would be where to find the funds for such a pension, but the Government hoped to arrive at a satisfactory solution of this difficulty.

After some further discussion the matter was allowed to drop. The Transportation and Penal Servitude Bill was then read a third time and passed.

Some other business being despatched, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE SLAVE TRADE.

Sir C. WOOD, in answer to a question from Sir G. Pecheil, announced that the squadron of British cruisers stationed around the coasts of Cuba would be reinforced, with the view of more effectually suppressing the slave trade.

BRIBERY.

General THOMPSON presented a petition from John Newall, the petitioner, against the return for the borough of Rochdale, complaining that one Peter Johnson had offered £50 to one Abraham Rothwell, an elector of that borough, to induce him to go to New Orleans in order to avoid giving evidence on the election petition. The General moved that witnesses be examined in support of the petition forthwith. The motion being agreed to, John Newall and Abraham Rothwell were examined at the bar, and the latter stated distinctly that Johnson had offered him £50 if he would go out of the country, and abstain from giving evidence before the Election Committee.

On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, Peter Johnson was ordered to attend the House forthwith; and eventually a select committee was appointed to investigate the matter.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF GREYTOWN.

On the order for going into committee of supply, Lord C. HAMILTON asked what steps Her Majesty's Government had taken to obtain compensation for the British subjects residing at Greytown, whose property was destroyed when that town was bombarded in 1854?

Lord PALMERSTON said that the transaction was very violent and very cruel. It was authorised by the Government of the United States, but it reflected no credit upon the Government which ordered it or the officer who executed it. But the question was the bearing of international law upon the case; and the Government had been advised, and he thought rightly that the British subjects at Greytown had no ground to call upon their Government to demand of that of the United States compensation for injuries suffered in the attack upon that town.

Lord LOVATIN accused the Government of a want of energy in this case, which was not shown towards weak and feeble Powers.

Mr. ROXBURGH observed that it was not only a cruel, but a dishonest proceeding on the part of the United States Government; and if the scene had been China or the Brazil, "the honour of the flag of England" would have been mouthed all day.

Mr. BENTINCK was of opinion that our nervous proceedings with regard to outrages committed by the Government of the United States were more likely to lead to than avert hostilities.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that the conclusion reluctantly come to by the law advisers of the Crown was that satisfaction could not be demanded of the Government of the United States for these losses, and the Government of France had come to the same conclusion.

Mr. DISKARTI demurred to this exposition of international law. He did not despair of ultimate redress.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL believed that the claim for redress, under the circumstances, could not be substantiated. He adverted, however, to the damage inflicted upon the residence of the English Vice-Consul, over which the British flag was flying, and thought that explanation ought to have been demanded for this insult.

The House afterwards went into committee of supply, and the rest of the sitting was chiefly devoted to discussing various items in the schedule of miscellaneous civil services.

MONDAY, JUNE 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CODIFICATION OF THE LAW.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, with an appropriate explanation, introduced eight bills which had been prepared by the Statute Law Commission for the codification of the law. These related to larceny, including burglary, malicious injuries to property, forgery, offences relating to the coinage, the game laws, libel, and the laws relating to accessories to offences; but several others were in course of preparation, and would in due time be introduced. He described the principles by which the Commissioners had been guided in their important and arduous labours, and believed that, as the result of their work, the fifty volumes of statutes would be ultimately reduced to ten or three.

Lord BROUGHAM and Lord CAMPBELL joined in the approbation expressed of the Commission, and the bills were read a first time.

MINISTERS' MONEY.

Their Lordships then went into committee upon the Ministers' Money Bill, in spite of the opposition of Lord Canning, Lord Derby countenancing himself with a protest against the measure, and throwing the whole responsibility of it upon the Government. Lord Wicklow moved that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of Ireland should be heard by counsel at the bar, but this motion was negatived without a division, and, in spite of several protests and much expressed disapprobation, the bill went through committee. Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OATHS BILL.

On the order for considering the Oaths Bill as amended in committee, Mr. S. FITZGERALD moved the addition of three clauses—the first disabling persons professing the Jewish religion from holding certain offices—(i. e. of Lord High Chancellor, Lord Keeper, or Lord Commissioner of the Great Seal of Great Britain or Ireland; the office of Lord Lieutenant, or Deputy, or other chief governor of Ireland; the office of High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, or any office belonging to any of the ecclesiastical courts of judicature; the office of Guardian and Justice of the United Kingdom, or of regents of the United Kingdom)—a second, incapacitating them from presenting to benefices in right of office; the third, disqualifying them from advising in the appointment of officers in the established church. He had been informed, he said, since he came to the House, that Her Majesty's Government did not intend to offer any opposition to these clauses.

Lord PALMERSTON said he had thought the contingencies contemplated in the clauses so unlikely to happen that it was scarcely worth while to make provision against them in any Act of Parliament; but being extremely anxious that the bill should pass, if the admission of the proposed clauses would tend in any degree to render more likely the passage of the bill, Her Majesty's Government would think themselves deeply responsible if for slight reasons they opposed them. Not attaching any importance to the provisions, but considering them unobjectionable, he should not therefore object to their adoption.

After a short conversation, in which Sir F. Thesiger, Mr. Dilwyn, Mr. Wigram, Lord Blandford, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Bentinck, and Mr. Gilpin participated, the clauses were agreed to, and ordered to be added to the bill.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

The House then went into a committee of supply on the Civil Service Estimates. The first vote, of £102,851, to complete the sum necessary for the works and expenses of the New Houses of Parliament, gave rise to a long discussion, chiefly with reference to the allowance to Sir Charles Barry, and Sir H. Willoughby moved to reduce the vote by £20,000; but the proposition was rejected upon a division by 175 to 65.

In the course of the discussion, Sir B. HALL, in reply to inquiries, admitted not only the decay of the stone, but that, notwithstanding the galvanising process, rust had appeared on the iron in the roof of the building.

Various other votes were agreed to without discussion.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Sir G. GREY moved the second reading of the Reformatory Schools Bill, giving a short explanation of its object.

Mr. MILES supported the second reading, approving the bill as a middle measure.

Some observations were made by Mr. Alcock, Mr. P. O'Brien, and Mr. Henley, and the House having divided upon the question, the second reading was carried by 154 to 6.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE DIVORCE BILL.

The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill was discussed on the third reading. Lord REDBURN moved the addition of a clause by which the proposed Court of Matrimonial Jurisdiction would be restricted from granting divorces *a vinculo*. To country, he believed, had been taken by surprise by the proposal to abrogate the legal indissolubility of the marriage tie.

Lord CAMPBELL deprecated any such restriction; but Lord MALMESBURY not only supported the amendment, but condemned those provisions in the bill which attached penal consequences to a conviction for adultery.

Lord WICKLOW also lamented all the evil consequences which he foresaw might flow from any act which affirmed the dissolubility of marriage; but Lord BROUGHAM "administered relief," as he called it, to those two Noble Lords, by reminding them that marriages had always been dissoluble, and that, as a matter of course, if certain conditions prescribed by a standing order of that House were fulfilled, a divorce was granted. He did not believe that there would be any great increase in the number of divorces after the passing of this bill, to which he recommended their Lordships to agree, with the exception of that clause which entailed the punishment of the adulterer otherwise than by a pecuniary fine.

Lord CARNARVON and the Bishop of OXFORD also spoke in favour of the amendment; but, after a reply from the Lord CHANCELLOR, it was rejected by a majority of 57.

An amendment moved by the Lord Chancellor, striking out the words "fine and imprisonment," to which Lord Brougham had objected, was carried by a majority of twenty.

Another amendment, moved by Lord Nelson, and supported by the Bishop of Oxford, providing that the re-marriage of divorced persons should be only a civil marriage, and that the clergy should not be compelled to solemnise such marriage, was also defeated, as was one almost similar moved by the Bishop of Exeter.

On the question that "the bill do pass," the Bishop of Oxford once more protested against it, and divided the House, but was defeated by a majority of twenty-one.

The bill therefore passed, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On the motion for the second reading of the Finsbury Park Bill, an opposition to the measure arose, in which the general question of granting public money for local improvements underwent considerable discussion. The bill was promoted by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the Government had promised to ask for a vote of £50,000 from Parliament towards the expenditure to be incurred on the new park.

After much discussion, a division was called upon a motion for adjourning the debate, the understanding being that the supporters of that motion were opposed to the grant. There appeared for the motion, 214; against, 123;—majority for adjournment, 91.

THE RESOURCES OF INDIA.

Mr. J. B. SMITH moved a resolution, "That it is expedient that Parliament shall direct its immediate attention to the best mode of removing the obstacles which impede the application of British capital and skill to the improvement of the productive powers of India." The Hon. Member remarked upon the enormous consumption of cotton in Great Britain, on the necessity of providing a more abundant supply of that raw material for our staple manufacture, and the natural facilities for the cultivation of the cotton plant in the territories administered by the East India Company. There was abundant evidence that India was capable of producing not only cotton, but sugar, tobacco, flax, hemp, and other articles. No obstacles, he maintained, were to be encountered in the production of these commodities, except those arising from artificial causes or ministerial negligence, and especially from the want of roads, the imperfect system of irrigation, the anomalous tenure of land, and the general insecurity of life and property. These obstacles the Government had the power to remove, and public works for that object realised a profit in India, which in some cases amounted to 200 per cent.—a result that would, in his opinion, justify the borrowing of money for the purpose.

Mr. MANGLIS said that if those who wanted cotton from India would, instead of calling upon Jupiter to help them, help themselves by adopting the same means which were taken by those who wanted other articles—sending agents to India—there was no amount of cotton they might not get, and within a short time. Already immense sums had been spent on public works; and there was a railway on which a pound of cotton was carried 650 miles for a farthing. Of works for irrigation, besides the Ganges canal, 810 miles in length, he specified other similar undertakings, and the large area of 30,000 square miles, over which the works now in the course of execution extended. He declared that the East India Company were doing all that men could do to extend and develop the internal resources of India, but he protested against their being expected to do what to Government ought to undertake.

Lord STANLEY admitted that much had been done to improve India, but little in comparison with the necessities of the case.

Mr. SEYMOUR observed that much of the speech of Mr. Smith applied to a state of things which existed several years ago, and many of his facts and statements were derived from old documents. He referred the House to more recent returns, which would show that of late about one-eighth of the whole revenue of India was expended upon public works, while the condition of the people was improving year by year. No one had said what the Government of India should do to the matter of roads which they had not done. What was wanted to promote the growth of cotton in India was capital and European superintendence. He moved the previous question.

On the motion of Sir E. PEARCE, the debate was adjourned till Tuesday next.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

JUDGMENTS EXECUTION BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill. Col. FENCH, on the plea that several Irish Members were in attendance on Lord Palmerston, moved to report progress. This obstructive motion was repeated by the Hon. Member three or four times in the course of the conversation which ensued, and was each time defeated; but the determination to obstruct the progress of the bill was so decided that the supporters of the bill gave in. The Chairman reported progress.

Some other business being transacted, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

OBSCENE LITERATURE.

Lord CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the Obscene Prints and Publications Bill, when considerable discussion arose as to what prints and publications were to be regarded as obscene; in the course of which Lord Lyndhurst, after exhorting with great force the extreme difficulty of defining the word "obscene," proposed, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

On this amendment a somewhat tumultuous discussion followed, but ultimately the bill was read a second time, on the understanding that some words should be inserted into it in committee to guard against any abuse which might be apprehended.

Some other business was then despatched, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE OATHS BILL.

On the order for the third reading of the Oaths Bill, The Marquis of BLANDFORD moved to defer the third reading for six months. His fundamental objection to this bill, he observed, was that the crown of this realm was avowedly held "by the grace of God," in the Christian idea of God. It had been said that by refusing the admission of Jews to Parliament the doctrine of charity would be infringed; but by such refusal, he contended, the rule of charity, to work no ill to our neighbour, was in no way violated. Charity was a divine virtue, but the doctrine proceeded from that very Divine Being whom the bill proposed to ignore. And he insisted that the maintenance of Christianity was an essential element in the legislation of this country.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. DAVENPORT, in a speech combining humour and sarcasm with seriousness and gravity.

The amendment was supported by the O'Donoghue, by Mr. Collins, and by Mr. Bowyer, on the ground that the bill re-affirmed and re-enacted the Catholic oath. Mr. Ball and Mr. Dillwyn supported the bill. The House then divided, when there appeared for the bill, 291; for the amendment, 168. The bill then passed.

WORKHOUSE ADMINISTRATION.

Viscount RAYNAM moved that a select committee should be appointed to inquire into the condition and administration of the metropolitan workhouses. He adduced proofs of what he considered to be misadministration in the workhouses of the metropolis, and of injudicious, harsh, and sometimes illegal treatment of paupers by the parish officers.

Mr. BOUVIER deprecated the appointment of a committee, promising, at the same time, that the Poor-law Board should fully investigate any case of mismanagement in a metropolitan workhouse which might be submitted to them.

Some further discussion ensued, and the House divided, negating the motion by a majority of 73 to 52—21.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES—EDUCATION.

The House then resumed the discussion of the Civil Service Estimates. On the vote of £361,233 for education, Mr. COWPER detailed the progress that had been effected in providing means of instruction for the community. During the past year grants of public money had been issued towards building 242 new schools and enlarging 262 existing establishments, supplying altogether additional accommodation for 32,000 pupils. In all 7,508 schools had been built, and were now subject to inspection; the corresponding number in 1854 having been 4,788. Out of five million children now computed to be living in the United Kingdom between the ages of three and fifteen, the national inspectors reported that at least three millions were attending or had attended schools of some kind or other.

A prolonged discussion followed of a very discursive character. Ultimately, a division took place upon an amendment, moved by Lord Melgund, reducing the vote by £91,030, being the amount of increase on this year's estimate as compared with 1856-7. The amendment was negatived by a majority of 163 to 7—156. The original vote was then carried.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE action for slander and malicious prosecution, brought some time since by Mr. Samuel Pack Barber, of the Samaritan Institution, against Mr. Potter, for allegations and proceedings by the latter before Mr. Alderman Carden, was tried this week. It may be remembered that Mr. Potter, some months since, made a statement to Alderman Carden respecting an alleged misappropriation of certain donations to the institution mentioned. Upon his testimony, supported by that of other witnesses, a charge was made out against Mr. Barber, but so far rebutted by counter-evidence that it was eventually dismissed by the Alderman. The allegations against Mr. Barber were, among others, that he had converted to his own private use a quantity of beer and biscuits supplied by charitable persons for the use of the poor. Immediately after the statement had been made to the Alderman, a writ was served on Mr. Potter for a slander, and the subsequent proceedings appear to have induced Mr. Barber's advisers to include in the declaration a count for malicious prosecution. After hearing many witnesses on each side, and after a two days' trial, the jury decided that the statement of Mr. Potter, though libelous, was true, and that there was no malice in the prosecution. They added that Mr. Barber and his family had given their evidence without intention to misrepresent the facts. This is practically a verdict for Mr. Potter, the defendant; and to judge from the number of witnesses the costs against Mr. Barber will be something heavy. Should they recoil upon Mr. Potter, they will act as a practical caution to all honest, public-spirited gentlemen against venturing to attempt the exposure even of the most flagrant frauds upon the community.

The case of the city frauds upon Irish manufacturers, in respect of which three persons, named Taylor, May, and Myers, have been put upon trial for conspiracy, has been already fully entered upon in these columns. We have now only to record the issue of the trial, which resulted in the conviction of Taylor and May and the acquittal of Myers. Taylor is sentenced to six months' imprisonment and May to twelve.

A haul has been made of the late directors of the Royal British Bank. Mr. Owen, Mr. Stapleton, M.P., and Mr. Macleod, have been arrested, but set at large upon bail. Cameron has been taken at Lausanne, and it is said that Esdaile, the governor, has also been captured. Humphrey Brown, by the last advices, still remains in prison, being unable to procure sureties. Mr. Apsley Pellatt having prudently renounced in time his association with the Bank will not be proceeded against. Meanwhile, the bill for relief of the shareholders and facilitating settlement with the shareholders has passed the House of Commons, and is progressing in the Lords.

At a meeting of the Marylebone board of guardians of the poor, it was announced that the opinion of a legal authority consulted by them, was adverse to their opposition to the attendance of the Poor-law inspector at their meetings. This attendance, it may be remembered, was only insisted upon in consequence of the notorious wrong-headedness of this particular Board. The resolution moved and carried unanimously upon this matter, is as follows: "That, although the impression of this board has hitherto been that their local acts protected them from the interference of the Poor-law Board (which impression was, of course, wrong), yet, in deference to the opinion of the eminent counsel whom they have consulted (who being eminent, decided the other way), they withdraw further opposition to the attendance of the Poor-law inspector at their meetings (if they had acted otherwise, in opposition to counsel's opinion, they might have been personally liable to the costs). In doing so, they remind the Poor-law Board that the board of directors and guardians of St. Marylebone is composed of thirty-three gentlemen (all gentlemen), who devote their time and attention (of inappreciable value) gratuitously (they cannot possibly exact any charge) to the interests of the parish (notoriously one of the worst-governed in the metropolis), with whom an undue interference in the discharge of their very onerous duties (namely, to decide questions before them, according to reason and justice, which it is obvious they do not and cannot), would be alike impolitic and unjustifiable." Uncon interference must be always impolitic and unjustifiable, but in this particular instance, the interference of the Poor-law Board with the absurd proceedings of the Marylebone vestry, will probably meet with little condemnation from the nation at large.

Mr. Sidebottom, whose action against one Culverwell, brought some months since, in respect of certain gaming transactions, our readers may perhaps remember, has been this week again before the public. He had brought an action against a man named Adkins, the keeper of a gaming-house in Albemarle Street, to recover from him the sum of £6,525, alleged by plaintiff to have been lost at play by him to the defendant, in consequence of unfair practices. One or two of the ordinary tricks of gambling sharpeners, such as the loading of dice, the marking them unfairly, and the employment of confederates as players, were exposed in the course of the plaintiff's case, but before it was concluded the defendant's counsel consented to a verdict for the amount claimed, and thus saved further revelations.

The fellow who shot the policeman, in the Haymarket, while attempting to arrest him for a burglary at the house of Lord Panmure, has been tried and convicted. After the verdict the counsel for the prosecution offered, if required, to furnish the Court with information as to the character of the prisoner. The Judge, Mr. Baron Watson, said this was quite unnecessary, as the case was one of the worst he had ever met. He sentenced the prisoner to transportation for life.

One George Hull received his discharge from his debts by the Insolvent Court. Shortly after he was arrested on an order of a County Court, granted upon a judgment based upon a debt included in his schedule. It seems that the County Court order for his commitment to prison was not for the non-payment of the debt, but for his non-attendance in pursuance of the County Court judgment summons. The discharge, therefore, did not apply. The point is important, as it exhibits to insolvents the necessity of attendance upon similar summonses. When these are attended and the insolvency proved, the claim against them falls to the ground.

The rural justices at Mowmouth, after indulging in a mental process which in ordinary minds would be entitled to be called reflection, have arrived at the following startling judicial result:—That when a civil, well-conducted young fellow, out of employ, purchases two or three gross of shirt-buttons, and tries to sell them at a profit, without having in the instance qualified himself by a hawker's license (which all the world knows to be necessary for that purpose) he commits a criminal offence, for which fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour forms the most appropriate expiation. They acted upon this idea a few days since. Taking their sentence as a *datum*, what ought to be the punishment for sitting in judgment upon English fellow-subjects without the necessary intellectual "qualification?"

St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, was slightly struck by lightning on Tuesday week.

A COURT-MARTIAL, recently held at Malta, condemned Captain Christopher Garstein, 28th Regiment, to be cashiered for unsoldierly conduct, and for being drunk. The Queen has, however, allowed him to sell his commission.

AT CARACAS, VENEZUELA, it is said great excitement exists in consequence of the British chargé d'affaires having solemnised a marriage between two native Roman Catholics, contrary to the rules of the church, the bride being daughter to her husband. The archbishop and the Pope had previously refused their sanction.

MURDER AND ROBBERY NEAR WOODFORD.

MR. SMALL, former of Chingford Hatch, near Woodford, in Essex, left home with his wife on Sunday morning for church. As they left they observed a man standing near the house, but having previously seen him at or near the same spot, they took no great notice of the circumstance. The house was left in charge of an aged woman of 72, a sister of Mrs. Small, who acted as housekeeper and cook. This woman, whose name was Mary White, had previously sent an invitation to her niece, who reached the house between eleven and twelve o'clock. The niece, failing to obtain an entrance at the front door, passed round to a back gate, and having entered the kitchen (on the ground floor), she found her aunt with her head nearly severed from her body, the throat being cut in two places. There was evidence of a violent struggle having taken place between the murderer and his victim: the clothes of the deceased were torn to pieces. The poor creature was quite dead, but the body was still warm, clearly indicating that life had not been long extinct.

The neighbourhood was of course immediately alarmed, and some constables arriving, they searched the house. It then appeared that the murderer, after killing the poor woman, must have gone to Mr. Small's bureau in one of the upper rooms, and taken from it a hammer and chisel, with the aid of which he forced open the drawers, and robbed the place of money, watches, and jewellery. While prosecuting their search, the police found a knife smeared with blood in a salt box, and a class-knife with a buckhorn handle, rather rusty, in a bowl; and it is supposed, that having accomplished his purpose with the aid of the first-named weapon, the murderer had recourse to the second; hence the two wounds in the throat. The assassin left by the back entrance, and it is supposed he then made his way to the railway station, and so escaped.

At the inquest, Mr. Small stated that he had left Mrs. White in good health, and that she was the last person in the world to commit suicide. One of the kniv was recognised as his property; the other he knew nothing of.

Miss Emma Small (the niece) gave evidence as to the finding of the body, as above described. She added that she particularly noticed that the deceased's hands were neither of them bloody. There was a wound upon her left temple, from which blood had flowed; a wound was also found upon the left hip.

Selina Stafford, a neighbour whom the previous witness called to her assistance, corroborated these latter statements. Mrs. Stafford lived only three doors off, and heard no noise, and saw no strange man (nor anyone else) waiting about the premises. If any unusual noise had been made in the house she must have heard it. The knife which was found in the bowl had no signs of blood upon it. The inquest was adjourned.

The house in which the murder was committed is an antiquated double-fronted white building, extending from the garden a considerable distance backwards. The house is approached by five distinct roads leading in the direction of Romford, Edmonton, Wanstead, Waltham, Water Lane, and the traffic along these roads on a Sunday is very great. What makes the case more mysterious is the fact, that although there were nearly thirty hawkmakers on the grass in front of the house where the deed was committed, no one seems to have heard any disturbance, or, if they did, gave no alarm.

The man who was seen waiting outside the house is thus described by the police:—"About thirty years of age; 5 feet 7 inches to 8 inches in height, dressed in a white slop with blue stripes, dark brown trousers, and light Wellington boots." This garb was probably only a disguise, and there seems to be little doubt that the murderer was well acquainted with the interior of the house.

A man was brought up on suspicion at the Thames Police-court on Monday, but it was satisfactorily shown that he was in no way connected with the matter. Another man has since been apprehended on suspicion.

WIFE MURDER.

MICHAEL CRAWLEY and his wife, Mary Crawley, lived in Well Street, Stratford. Crawley (sixty-two years of age, which was also the age of his wife) was a jobbing labourer, and two or three days last week was employed hawkmaking on Hackney Marshes. On Friday night he came home after spending the wages he had earned during the day. Next morning, he demanded 1s. 6d., which he seems to have known his wife possessed. She refused. He muttered some threats in the hearing of his daughter, who went out for a little time, and, on returning to her mother's room, found her lying almost dead on the floor in a pool of blood. The old woman's head had been battered in. Her dress gave evidence of a severe struggle—a pocket containing the 1s. 6d. being torn out. On search being made for the weapon which had been used, the daughter found in a cupboard a heavy cleaver, the edges of which were covered with blood, with portions of hair adhering to it. With this weapon it was found that seventeen wounds had been inflicted in various parts of her body. The poor creature was removed to the workhouse, where she died the following morning. On Monday morning, Crawley was apprehended on the Ilford Road, near Stratford. His clothes were wet, and he stated that he had fallen into a ditch. He afterwards admitted his guilt, and said he was going to give himself up. After a preliminary examination, the prisoner was remanded to Ilford jail. A verdict of "Wilful Murder" was subsequently recorded against him at a coroner's inquest. No new facts were elicited.

THE CONVICT MANSWELL.—The Judges in the Court of Error affirmed the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench on Wednesday afternoon, and ordered the convict for execution at Maidstone on the 4th of July.

SHIPPING THE ATLANTIC CABLE ON BOARD THE AGAMEMNON.

IT is hardly necessary to remind our readers that the two ships charged with the important duty of carrying the electric cable from this country to America, are the United States corvette *Niagara*—an illustration of which we have already published—and her Majesty's steam-frigate *Agamemnon*. We give this week a drawing of the last-named ship, as she may be seen alongside the works of Messrs. Glasse and Elliott, at E. St. Greenwich.

The mode of shipping the cable is simple enough, but the sight is not the less singular; it is therefore a sight very much more easily described than imagined. All that is externally visible of the operation appears in the engraving, to which we refer our readers for a more striking, concise, and intelligible explanation than a written account will convey. At the same time, and without imputation on the artist's work, it may be as well to accompany his faithful representation with a few words, in the same way that a panorama lecturer tells the public what they are looking at. So, our readers will please observe towards the left hand side of the picture a series of timber supports, which are erected on pontoon bridges, and which are fitted each with a small wheel. Over these wheels runs the electric cable; and the perpetual clatter, with the constant gliding of the coil, reminds one of the old days of *ropo*-locomotion on the Blackwall railway.

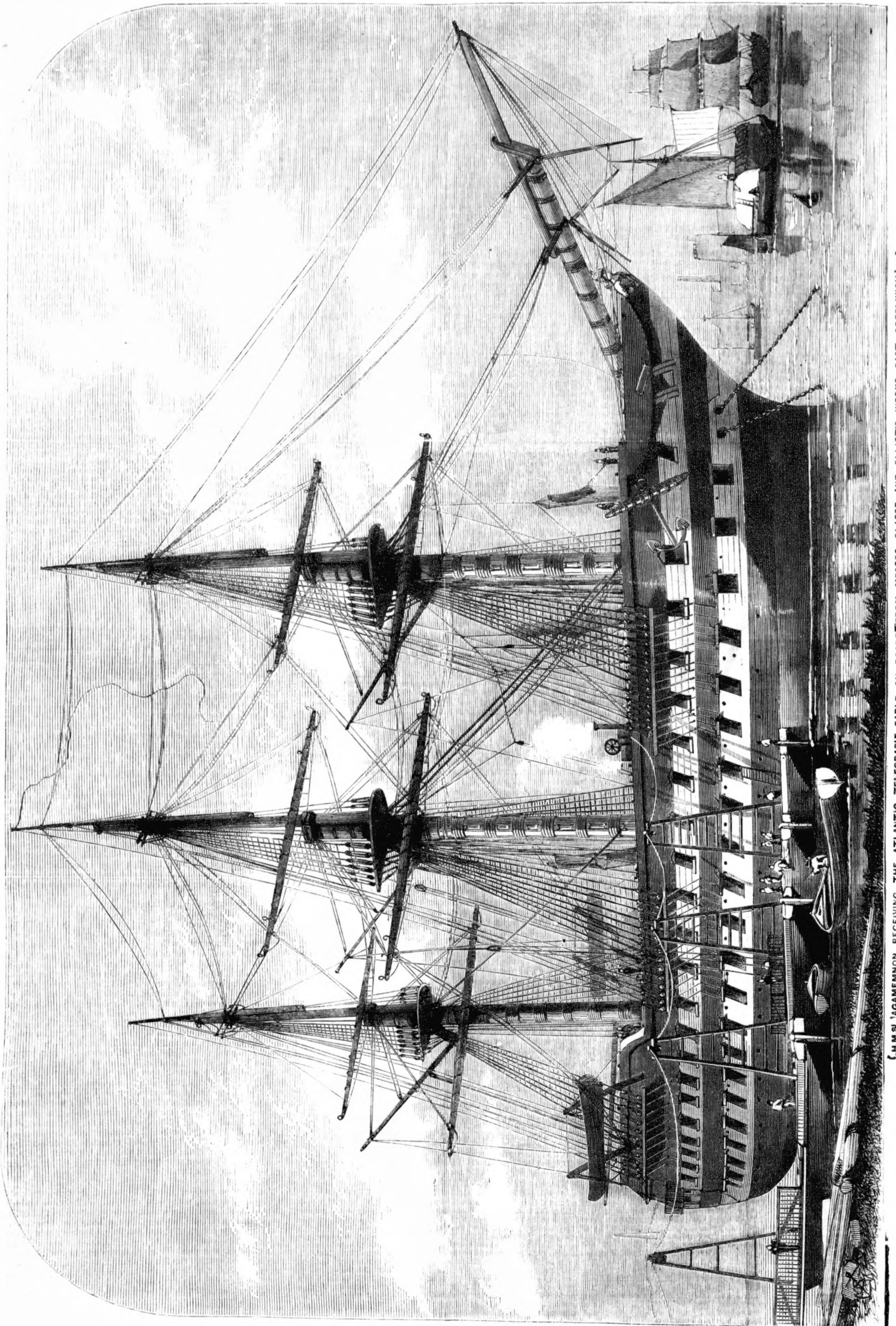
So much for the exterior arrangements. It is hardly necessary to remind the patriotic reader, that the *Agamemnon*, as she lies off East Greenwich, is an object of interest on another account than that of her present employment. Consequently, when we find ourselves on board, and are handed over to the guidance, philosophy, and British friendliness of a petty officer, whose relations with the ship are of five years' standing, and who, consequently, served on board of her in the Black Sea, during the whole of the Crimean war, it is not wonderful that our curiosity is divided between his eastern reminiscences of the ship, and the preparations now afoot for her peaceful expedition to the West.

A temporary engine on board the *Agamemnon*, draws the cable from the shed in Messrs. Glasse and Elliott's yard, and drops it down into the hold. This receptacle is circular with a cone in the centre. As you look down at the cone, you seem to be looking on a grooved floor, so close, even, and level is the wire adjusted. Its small size is the first fact commented on by every stranger. In circumference it is not more than two inches; though there will be a certain length at either end which will be as much in diameter, it being considered advisable to have a thicker cable where it will lie along uneven soundings. As the smoothly-coated wire descends perpendicularly into the hold, it is received by men who sit in a circle and adjust the coil with great care and precision. The work began on Wednesday week; and, at the time of our visit last Wednesday, we found that 217 miles had been stowed away round that cone in the *Agamemnon's* circular hold. Forty miles a-day will be about the average accomplishment of that blue-shirted ring of men, sitting on the grooved floor below, and seemingly playing at hunt-the-slipper. It will take, then, about five weeks to finish the game.

Precautionary arrangements are being made, in case of accidents. In the steerage 300 extra miles will be wound up, as a reserve, to meet possible needs. Again, there is a spare engine of peculiar construction, the use of which will be to assist the companion ship, if she should chance to carry away her part of the cable. It is contemplated, in such case, to fish up the parted cable (a difficult feat, as it appears to the unscientific) and to ship it either on board the vessel that met with the accident, or her helpmate. With this view a large space will be left on board the *Agamemnon*; and we presume that a similar arrangement has been made in the case of the *Niagara*.

The innovations consequent on these proceedings are naturally startling to the nautical mind, which is a conservative mind, and never having known of gas being burnt on board a ship, revolts from that experiment, among others which are now in practice on board the *Agamemnon*. Our friend with the Sebastopol honours upon his bronzed forehead, spoke resignedly of these matters; for the nautical mind is as strong in its instincts of submission as of conservatism; but it was easy to see that he regarded the contract as—whose rule has for a time almost superseded that of the commander—as but lubberly people to be in authority on board ship. Nor did he see plainly how, in case of the cable being carried away at sea, they were to fish it out again.

We shall have something further to say about this wonderful cable in a future number.



H.M.S. 'AGAMEMNON' RECEIVING THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE ON BOARD FROM MESSRS. GLASSE AND ELLIOT'S WORKS EAST GREENWICH.



'Tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble lovers in content,

Than to be perked up in glistening grief,
And wear a golden sorrow."—SHAKESPEARE.

THE GAMESTER.—(FROM A PAINTING BY MISS SOLOMON, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.)

THE GAMESTER.

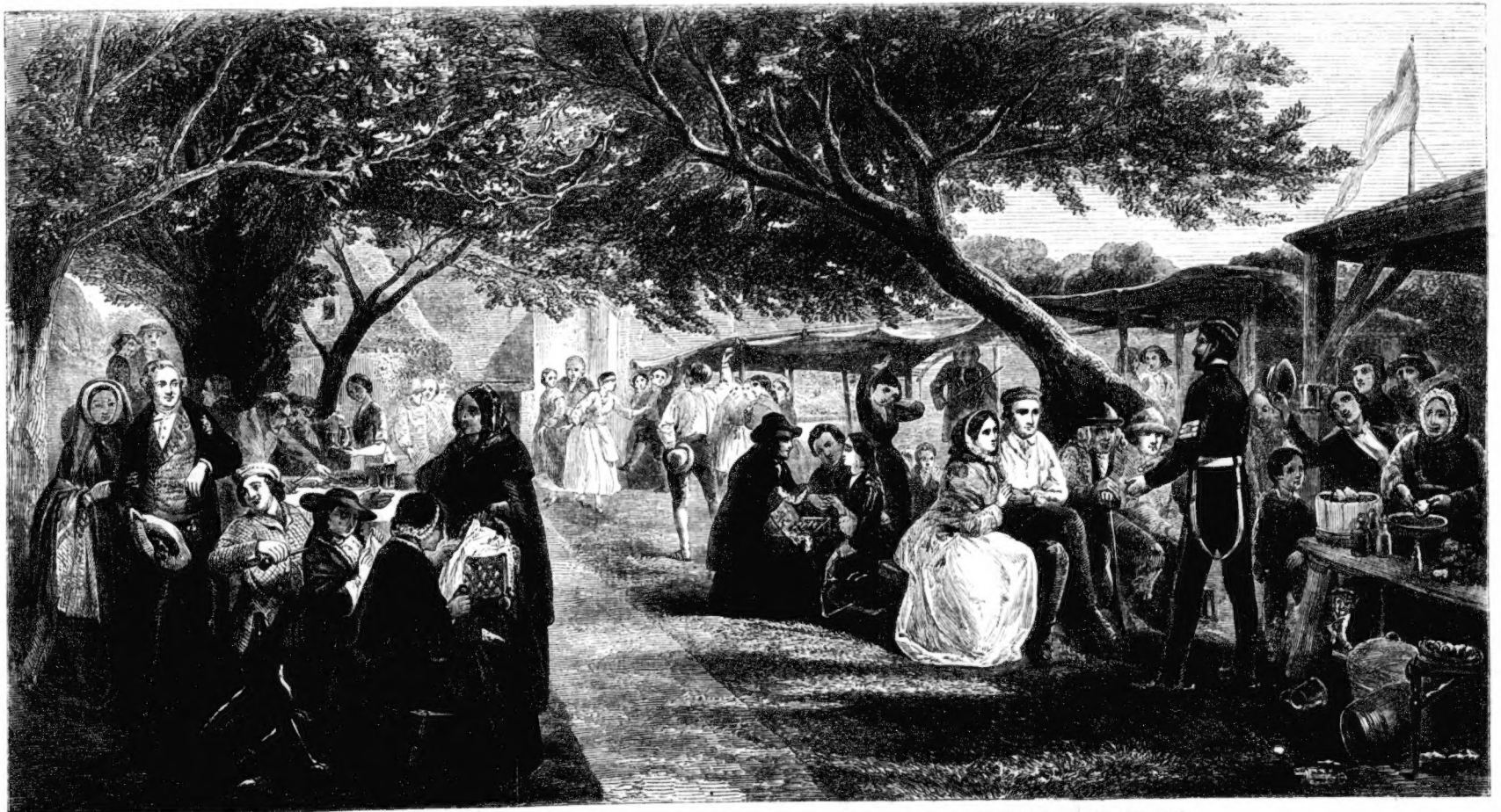
BY MISS SOLOMON.

ONE of the pictures in the present Exhibition of the Royal Academy, which has been passed by most of the critics without a word of notice, is the work of a lady artist, which we have engraved above. It is by Miss Solomon, the sister of the painter of "Waiting for the Verdict," a work which every one who has been to the Trafalgar Square Exhibition talks

about, and which, although certain objections have been urged against it, will undoubtedly materially enhance the painter's reputation. In the Academy's catalogue Miss Solomon's picture (27), has nothing beyond the Shakspearean quotation above given affixed to it, but we have ventured to append to this the title of "The Gamester," with, we think, sufficient reason. The story, as we read it, appears to be this: A night spent in riotous companionship with the dangerous adjuncts of

cards and dice, has made of a heretofore gallant gentleman, if not a poorer, at any rate a sadder man. From the grasp he has of the hilt of his sword, we are led to conjecture that, pondering over his night's losses, he is contemplating suicide, the coward's usual remedy for the troubles which he has brought upon his own head.

At this moment his wife, whose careworn look betokens that she has been keeping late vigils on his account, makes her appearance, and stung



A VILLAGE HOLIDAY.—(FROM A PAINTING BY T. F. MARSHALL IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE MANCHESTER INSTITUTION.)

either by her grief, or else by her reproaches, the wretched man yields himself up to remorse, and is eventually, we trust, brought to repentance. One incident we must not omit to notice: through the window we catch sight of a group hasting in the early morning to the scene of the day's labours—a group which evidently exemplifies the sentiment contained in the two first lines of the quotation that Miss Solomon has selected to describe her picture—

"Tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble lovers in content."

A glance at the engraving will suffice to satisfy those who are in any way familiar with matters of art, that the painting itself possesses the merit of a careful and conscientious work. The expression of the faces is good—the painful, earnest look which the poor wife wears is very sad and very true—the drawing of the figures is correct—the attitudes are not forced, but perfectly easy and natural. The arrangement and rendering of the drapery are alike bold, and yet there is no deficiency of detail, but every fold is carefully rendered. The accessories are painted with the painstaking care, and there is generally a firmness of handling about the entire work, which proves the painter to be possessed of powers of execution that are certainly rare among her sex.

A VI. LAGE HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAYS in villages are very pretty things, and make very pretty pictures. It is because we know them to be such pleasant realities that we can generally look with pleasure on their counterfeits in paintings. The work by Mr. T. F. Marshall, now exhibiting at the Manchester Institution, is remarkable more for the prettiness which we have conceded to be a natural character of such scenes, than for the flash of youthful spirits which is also to be looked for in a country scene of revel. We willingly pardon Mr. Marshall for what we must consider an over-strained decorum of attitude and expression in his several groups, on account of the quiet touches of feeling to be discerned in places;—for instance, where the pretty, gentle-faced girl is grasping the arm of her lover with an earnest closeness, while the sergeant is holding forth on the glories of war. The colouring of the picture is bright, and at the same time harmonious. A fair judgment of its picturesque grouping and its careful distribution of light and shadow may be formed from our engraving.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. W.—We shall resume the publication of our engravings from the Turner Pictures as soon as we have printed the various copies which we have had made of paintings contained in exhibitions now open to the public. Next week we hope to publish the conclusion of our series of portraits of new M.P.s.

A GLASGOW SUBSCRIBER.—We intend to illustrate and report with fulness the trial in question.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1857.

THE BALLOT.

THERE are certain great political truths which by the mere force of moral impetus, though scouted, derided, and ridiculed for years, at last become recognised as facts which must triumph and must prevail. Catholic Emancipation, Parliamentary Reform, and the Repeal of the Corn-laws, were long looked upon as utopian dreams, which might, at most, admit of a chary and grudging discussion; but of their ultimate realisation the most sanguine agitator scarcely dared to entertain—in his own generation—a hope. It took years to force upon our legislators the conviction that common reason and common patience would not much longer hold out against the doctrine, that because a British subject believed in transubstantiation he was to be treated as a pariah and a felon; that because proprietors of pocket boroughs in the last stage of rottenness, like Gatton and Old Sarum, were desirous of bringing their nephews into the House of Commons as soon as they conveniently could after being "plucked" at Oxford, the wealthy and influential towns of Manchester and Liverpool were to be excluded from the franchise; and that because some hundred top-booted agriculturists thought it a good thing that wheat should rule high in the market, some twenty millions of Englishmen, whose lot it was to labour, should eat bread leavened by a sense of injustice.

There can be no doubt that, not even excepting the Extension of the Suffrage, Vote by Ballot is the most important political question with which those interested in the welfare of their country have to deal. The subject has been agitated for years. Poo-hooed at first—then violently opposed—then reluctantly recognised as a galling necessity whose imperativeness could not be controverted, but which, by the agile encouragement of supineness, might be indefinitely deferred—it has grown by a gradual but slow process of accretion to such an incontrovertible entity, that not all the king's horses nor all the king's men can pull the great principle evolved by vote by ballot down again.

Agitated for years in a firm, persevering, but temperate manner, supported by most thinking minds, and owing no small moral influence to the steadfast advocacy of the best-informed section of the Press, the ballot has received on several occasions the expressed approbation of Parliament; but by some legislative legerdemain, with whose intricacies we are unacquainted, this expression has been rather implied than felt; and though the principle of vote by ballot has been accepted and endorsed by Parliament, the accomplishment of the object in view has been waived and deferred and shelved; till the public, wearied with such delays, appear disposed to appeal to the *ultima ratio regum*, and by the exercise of that often-threatened, but seldom-resorted-to, mode of impulsion, known as the "pressure from without," force upon their unwilling or neglectful legislators the task of doing them justice. The meeting which is to be held next Monday, affords earnest that the repeated wishes of the country at large, as expressed through its chosen delegates in Parliament, can no longer be disregarded; and if the principle of the ballot be really acquiesced in by the Legislature, that acquiescence should be no longer a resultless sham, but a palpable and tangible truth.

The principal argument adduced by the opponents of the ballot, is that it is "thoroughly un-English," that it tends to encourage a cut-throat, Judas-like medium of voting, and that it is only a machine for enabling a man to tell a lie without being found out. In our humble opinion, the ballot-box is a machine for enabling a man to tell the truth without being persecuted, badgered, decied, frequently ruined, for telling the truth, by those superior to him in wealth and authority, and wicked enough to wield that wealth and authority to his detriment. Had the ballot been in force, were the ballot in force now, the miserable tenants of the Marquis of Waterford would not be compelled to address their lord and master in terms more becoming Russian serfs than British freeman. They would not be compelled servilely and whiningly to beg that one who, before the law, is no more than one of themselves, would allow them to vote according to the dictates of their consciences. Were vote by ballot the law of the land, John Turmuts need no longer fear being turned out of his homestead because he has recorded his vote in favour of Thomas Ironbrace instead of the Honourable Felix Optimus. Were vote by ballot the law, we could

scarcely be scandalised by the spectacle of "scenes in the House," by the recital of degrading intrigues between gentlemen and farm labourers, attorneys and beer-shop keepers, haggling about the price of corruption, or squabbling over the fare of a journey to New Orleans to be "out of the way" of an election committee.

The ballot would, it is almost undeniable, afford a genuine security against bribery and corruption. We have legislated in vain for years in the endeavour to put down venality at elections. We have proscribed treating—we have framed economical scales of expenses for election contests, circumscribing the limits of a cockade, and subjecting the exuberances of brass bands and the fluttering of ribbon to the stern supervision of election auditors. All this has been in vain. Whether it be due to the perverseness of human nature, or to the innate capacity for corruption exemplified by all holders of the franchise, it is certain that no enactments have as yet been successful in suppressing bribery; and no law has yet been made to really reach the candidate who promises the honest and independent elector who will vote for him something like twenty pounds sterling for a pair of Wellington boots, and no law is in force which will effectually prevent the defeated and vindictive candidate from wreaking his vengeance in the shape of withdrawal of custom, or expulsion from tenancy, on the yeoman or the householder who has dared to think for himself. The ballot might save us from this standing reproach.

Another, and in our opinion a most fallacious, argument against the ballot is, that every voter ought to consider he had a public duty to discharge in the exercise of his vote, and that his vote should consequently be recorded confidently and publicly. It is precisely because the voter has a public duty, and that he should be allowed to discharge that duty conscientiously, and without let or hindrance, that we advocate the ballot. When landlords cease to coerce their tenants; when the humble possessor of the franchise ceases to know that a plumper for the adverse candidates will ensure his expulsion from the house where he was born, and the ruin of the wife and family he loves; when the dishonest knave who would sell his vote, as, but for a craven fear, he would sell himself, learns that it is a matter of perfect indifference to Blue or Buff candidate whether he be corrupt or no, and that all his roguery will not help him in the way of loaves or fishes—then and not till then, we may expect the voter to exercise his right in confidence and in publicity, to enregister his vote exactly as he likes for or against the proprietor of the soil he cultivates, and the patron of the church where he was christened and married, and in whose quiet grave-yard he hopes to repose when plumpers are no more spoken of, and split-votes are of no account.

The examples of France, America, Belgium, Holland, and Australia, all argue in favour of the ballot. When vote was first taken by ballot in France, there were 300,000 more voting papers sent in than when there were people to give them. In America, the system has been tried since the first establishment of the Republic, and has never yet been found wanting. Every nation, save our own, has hastened to discard the cumbrous, antiquated, and inefficient system of open voting; and every country, inaugurating the representative system, adopts, as one of its corner-stones, the principle of vote by ballot.

There is another argument at hand, nearer home, and which is perhaps the most triumphant replication that can be given to the enemies of the ballot. We allude to the balloting system as applied to the clubs of London. All the insinuations of meanness, hypocrisy, cowardice, and treachery preferred by the advocates of open voting, against those of the ballot-box, fall to the ground when we consider that this system, approved and tried for years without the slightest approach to dissatisfaction, has been, and is, in use among assemblies of the proudest gentlemen in the world—men whose fame, like Bayard's, is without fear and without reproach, and who have resorted to such a method of recording their opinions from a deliberate conviction that it is the surest, the honestest, and the most honourable.

THE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

THIS Conference has a kind of resemblance to what a Council of the Christian Church was in days when the Church solemnly took upon itself to regulate the moral life of Europe. The dignitaries of the country meet together to discuss its intellectual condition, and exchange hopes, suggestions, and plans for the benefit of the same. An accomplished Prince opens it; and there is no lack either of zeal or knowledge. Whether sanguine or no about the results, we may learn something of the state of the question and its difficulties, and the contrivances to avert these last, by reading the details of the meetings.

We shall discuss every reformer's pet project in due course, as occasions present themselves. But first let us look at the general results of Prince Albert's statistics.

It is unnecessary, and it but frightens lazy folks, to give the details of the figures. But the great facts are simple. Of the total population from three to fifteen—which amounts to nearly five millions—only considerably less than half attend school; and of those who so attend, not nearly one half are above nine. Only a minority of the people, therefore, get any education; and what they get, they get very young—nearly one-half only enjoying the advantage less than a year! This fact only, meditated, gives a sad picture of the national education. What, then, are the causes of it?

About the causes there is more agreement than about the remedies. In fact, the causes are pretty generally admitted to be the two following:—

- 1st. Lethargy of the parents.
- 2nd. Necessities of the parents compelling them to employ the children in work.

The first of these is both a cause and a consequence. Uneducated themselves, the mass of parents care little about an advantage of which they know nothing, and transmit their ignorance as naturally as their poverty. This is a terrible dead weight for the reformer to struggle against, since he requires a kind of double process, a certain education of the parents, indeed, to show them that education would be advantageous to their children. The material misery of poor people deadens their perceptions of everything but the necessities and common animal instincts of life. In short, what with the spread of population and its accumulation in towns, the poor have sunk out of the hands of the governing classes, as it were into a region below, from which they have to be pulled up like a drowning man. The educational difficulty is both a moral and material one. The parent is careless about the child's education because he is poor, and the child remains poor because the parent is careless. You will never effectually or extensively remedy this, unless by satisfying the parent that education will increase the child's material prosperity (which, we take it, the common parent doubts), or by removing the child in the matter of education out of his government. The last process does not suit English opinion, nor English domestic life and traditions.

And yet it does not seem that it is a need of the child's work which is the most potent cause of non-education; for there are two millions

odd of children whose absence from school cannot be accounted for in this way. The parents, therefore, would lose nothing were they compulsively taken to school, but on the contrary would gain much. There must be one class of parents of untaught children, willing enough to have their offspring taught, and these we suppose the Bishop of Oxford to allude to, when complaining of "the want of parental authority" as a retarding influence. That want is like other wants of the kind. The old kind of education was all done by authority—as that of masters over apprentices and servants, farmers over labourers, and so forth, education meaning development through discipline, and not book-learning only. Here, therefore, the education question (as is the way with all fundamental questions) leads us to the brink of a great political problem. The only answer is a temporary and partial one. You must use what authority does survive, and help the parent by the state. But here Lord Brougham's suggestion, that the influence of the "masters" of England over their work-people should be brought into play, becomes valuable. What is such influence for? Is one tithe of the *bona fide* "influence," which all the superior classes enjoy, brought to bear for this or any other good object? Assuredly not; but there is plenty of it forthcoming at an election.

We have ceased for the present to entertain any hope of a general plan of national education; and we advocate little plans of every kind in the trust that they may prepare the country for something better. A main advantage of the conference will be to teach people that as they cannot hope to be unanimous, they must do the next best thing, and agree to act in harmony about the points on which their views coincide.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has commanded a private representation of Mr. Wilkie Collins's drama "The Frozen Deep." It will be given on Saturday week at the Gallery of Illustration, the characters being sustained by the original corps of amateur ladies and gentlemen who played in it at Twickenham House.

LORD PALMERSTON has conferred a pension of £70 per annum upon the widow of the late Mr. Hugh Miller, in recognition of his services to literature and science.

THE ANNUAL FANCY-DRESS BALL, under the immediate patronage of her Majesty and members of the Royal Family, for the benefit of the Royal Caledonian Asylum and the Royal Scottish Hospital, was given at Willis's Rooms on Monday night; and although it could not be said to be the fullest, it was one of the best balls we have witnessed for several years.

A SCULPTURED TABLET to the memory of Captain Lyons, son of Admiral Lord Lyons, who was killed on board the *Miranda*, which he commanded in a night attack on Fort Constantine, on the 15th of June, 1855, has just been placed in the south aisle of St. Paul's Cathedral.

THE DISASTERS which lately existed among the cattle in Russia, on the frontiers of Prussia, having disappeared, the communications on that frontier have been re-established.

THE AGRICULTURAL TENANCY OF THE EARL OF CARLISLE have been notified of an advance of rent on the Castle Howard estates, Yorkshire, commencing from Michaelmas last.

TWO PERSONS implicated by the suicide Salmon (mis-manager of the Commercial Bank at Falkirk), are in custody.

DR. POZNAUSKA, in a communication addressed to the Paris Academy of Science, asserts that the usual premonitory symptoms of cholera are a low pulse; at this period strengthening medicines always prevent the complaint.

THE PUBLICATION OF MR. TENNYSON'S NEW VOLUME is postponed, says the "Literary Gazette." The laureate has come to the conclusion that he has written too little for an independent publication, and, although the poems have now for some time been in print, their appearance is to be delayed till they can be accompanied by others.

THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY, which has for some years past been a sort of literary crypt for the sepulture of a valuable collection of antiquated works of reference, and of such additional new books as could be interred within its presses, is to be made partially available for lending.

A GOLD FIELD that can be profitably worked, has been discovered in New Zealand. It is in the Aorere valley, near Nelson. In the week ending the 20th of March 300 diggers on the spot obtained 200 ounces of gold. Already a gold-dealing firm at Nelson issue a "circular," in imitation of the Australian brokers.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS DE MONTENAPPE, with the Princesses, will shortly pay a visit to the ex-Queen of the French at Claremont. Their Royal Highnesses have left in a Spanish war steamer.

NOT LESS THAN FIFTY GERMAN PRINCESSES (says the "Brunswick Journal") are of an age to be married; and of course looking out into the matrimonial market. On the other hand, there are not more than half-a-dozen Continental princes of an age befitting the expectants.

A MONSTER MANUFACTORY is to be built on the Isle of Cronholm, near St. Petersburg. It will comprise a cotton-spinning establishment and a series of weaving shops. It is stated that the spinning departments will comprehend the largest building in the whole world. Mr. Richard Barlow, an English merchant, is director of the works.

SOME YOUNGSTERS were playing the other day in the yard at Hendon, Sunderland, where the sewerage pipes are kept in store, when a little fellow crawled under one of the pipes, and became so firmly wedged in, that the pipe had to be broken before he could be released.

MR. JOHN BRIGHT has returned to Rochdale in improved health.

THE JEWELS BELONGING TO THE EMPRESS CATHERINE, which have been in litigation ever since that sovereign's death, are to be sold at Moscow next month.

THE ALPACA SHEEP has been introduced into Australia.

THE REPORT OF THE JUDGES appointed to select the best designs for the new public offices will be published about the end of the present month. The designs to which prizes may be allotted will afterwards be exhibited in Westminster Hall.

SIX BRANCH-LOADING GUNS, each weighing seventeen tons, manufactured in New York by order of the British Government, have arrived in the Thames.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA has decided that one of his two sons, Prince Mirza Faruk, shall pay a visit to Europe. He will make a tour in France, England, Austria, and Russia.

MR. F. R. PICKERSGILL is the new Royal Academician, and Mr. G. F. Dow the new Engraver Academician. Two associate-ships are therefore now vacant.

MR. CHARLES KEAN has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

THE NEWS THAT GOLD FIELDS had been discovered in Demerara has set every one astir at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

THE REPRESENTATION OF BANFFSHIRE in the House of Commons, being vacant by the resignation of the Earl of Fife (who is nominated to the British Peerage), Major Gordon, of Park, is to be brought forward. There is a rumour that he will be opposed by Lord George Lennox.

THE ARCHDUKE MAXIMILIAN paid a visit to Portsmouth on Monday. The Archduke was shown over the various departments, and witnessed some shell and rocket firing on board the *Excellent*.

GAOUSE are said to be very promising, and a capital year's shooting is expected.

THE CHARTER OAK, a sloop-rigged yacht of only twenty-three tons, was to have started from New York for Liverpool a fortnight since. This little sea boat—fifty feet long—was to have a crew of five men, including officers, and to be provisioned for ninety days.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE attended a banquet given on Monday evening by the members of the Junior United Service Club, to inaugurate their new Club House in Charles Street, Waterloo Place. Covers were laid for 136.

NEARLY THREE HUNDRED POUNDS have been collected at the Cape of Good Hope in aid of the sufferers by the ship *Joseph Soames*, a graphic account of which terrible catastrophe appeared in the "Illustrated Times" of three or four weeks since.

THE BODY OF AN INFANT, tied up in a bundle, was on Monday dragged ashore from the Serpentine river by a Newfoundland dog.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, held in London, on Thursday, resolutions for an immediate increase of missionary labourers were adopted.

THE REV. G. C. GORHAM, whose name was so prominently before the controversial world a few years ago, died last week.

THE NUMBER OF PAUPERS RELIEVED IN ENGLAND AND WALES, in every week of the quarter ended at Lady-Day last, was less than in the corresponding weeks of the quarter ended at Lady-Day, 1856. The difference varies from 16 to 36 per cent. in doors, and from 0.2 to 5.2 per cent. out of doors.

THE SULTAN has ordered a splendid mirror to be made for him in Paris. The cost is £20,000.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE quiet inhabitants of Brompton (for that pleasant suburb has some quiet inhabitants as well as the brougham-holding population), have been frightened from their propriety this week by swarms of fashionable extravagances and gaily-dressed people, gathered together at the misnamed "private view" of the collections at the Museum of Science and Art. I believe that the general public has scarcely any conception of the interesting articles contained in this museum, in itself a miniature Exhibition of '51. There are the pictures presented by Mr. Sheepshanks to the nation; preparations, in glass bottles and cases of every possible size, of the products of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdom, got together and superintended by Dr. Lyon Playfair; while among the wonders in the Patents' Museum, are to be seen the very first engine by which a vessel was ever propelled through the water, and a model of the engines about to be fitted to Mr. Scott Russell's monster ship, the *Great Eastern*. At night the building is admirably lighted, the Sheepshanks pictures appearing to special advantage. Every information is afforded by the civil sappers who are to be found in every room, there are capital light refreshments at a moderate cost, and altogether the Museum of Science and Art will be found not only a pleasant medium of instruction for the studious, but an agreeable lounge for the idler.

It is refreshing to see that the Commissioners for deciding on the site of the National Gallery have had the courage to give their verdict in opposition to the emphatically expressed opinion of Prince Albert; but it is to be regretted that journalists were compelled to chronicle the fact, that "Mr. Faraday declined to vote." Mr. Faraday is a gentleman holding far too high a position in the scientific world to be prejudiced by any act for which good reasons could be assigned. I suppose, however, that had he expressed an adverse opinion to the Court wishes, his lectures would no longer have been graced by the presence of the Royal children. This system of *ko-tou* is deeply rooted in us. During the week a trial took place to which the Duke of Cambridge should have been summoned; the lawyers on both sides, however, agreed not to call him; and, as the reporters inform us, a letter from a "distinguished personage" contained the substance of his evidence. When law and science truckle to rank, what is to be expected of the less educated portion of the community?

The public are responding nobly to the efforts of the committee for providing a fund for the family of the late Douglas Jerrold. On the first day of the office opening upwards of £120 was received. The attractions most sought after are the performance of "The Frozen Deep," and Mr. Dickens's reading of "The Carol." It has been erroneously stated, that a private performance of "The Frozen Deep," at which her Majesty will be present, on the 8th of July, is also for the Jerrold Fund. The Queen's visit is simply to witness the acting of Mr. Dickens's amateur troupe, and has no connection with any testimonial.

"Who did the caricature of Millais' Sir Ysumbras, in the Royal Academy?" is a question now echoing through all the clubs. Not Millais himself, assuredly, though echo (that respectable authority) has once or twice named him. The drawing is, I admit, quite worthy his powerful hand; but its "conception of facts" is so far superior to that which he manifests in the original picture, as to enforce a remark of Mr. Ruskin, to the effect that an "irregularity" in such conception is one of the signs in Millais' work this year. Take the ass's head, for example. (In the caricature, "Grand Distre" is not a horse but an ass, branded "J.R. Oxon.") You see it is turned towards you, instead of being in profile. This is not only a great improvement, pictorially considered, but it is infinitely more natural in the circumstances. Look at the curve in the river, and you will then see, by the rushes on the left hand of the foreground, that the ass is coming on shore. Now Millais has made "Grand Distre" progress in a straight line, not at all in agreement with the turn of the stream. For the benefit of those readers who have not yet seen the caricature, I may notice that the figure of the old dreamy-eyed gentleman in gilt armour, is replaced by a capital likeness of Mr. Millais; and that the innocents whom he has kindly brought over on the back of "Grand Humbugge," otherwise "J.R. Oxon," are Mr. Dante Rossetti, and Mr. Holman Hunt. "Grand Humbugge" having done his work, suddenly takes it into his head to be rebellious, and is braying and flourishing his tail portentously. The legend beneath is parodied from the apocryphal quotation in the catalogue, and is hardly on a par with it in literary skill. I should add that the three figures on the opposite bank, instead of being three *religieuses*, as in the painting, are three old monkish artists, one of whom is exclaiming "Orate pro nobis."

The scandal concerning the novel which is *not* Miss Kavanagh's, does not call, fortunately, for much notice. Her complaint that Mr. Newby published it with her name, but without her concurrence, has been met by that gentleman with a statement that Miss Kavanagh's father brought him the MS., saying that it was in part the work of that lady, who desired that her name might appear as that of the editor. Believing this representation, and being ignorant (as he declares) of any quarrel between father and daughter, Mr. Newby published the book in perfect good faith. As soon as he was informed by Miss Kavanagh's solicitor that her consent had not been given to this arrangement, Mr. Newby sent fresh title-pages to all the libraries, requesting that they might be substituted for those which bore Miss Kavanagh's name. The quarrel, however, is not yet at an end, Miss Kavanagh being dissatisfied both with Mr. Newby's explanation and method of redress.

Mr. Charles Kean having been elected a Fellow of the Antiquarian Society, it is not improbable that some professional wits will make merry with the letters F.S.A. More than one attempt, of average success, at adapting these initials to Mr. Charles Kean's least favourable characteristics, has been shown me; but, believing the authors to have their own views on the question of publishing their good-natured efforts, I must, in honour, refrain from throwing your readers into ecstasies of appreciative delight.

The "John Bull," with an abnormal liveliness very pleasant to see, contradicts the statement on which the "Daily News" recently founded an article, affirming definite relations between the leaders of the Conservative party and the "Morning Herald." Now, the question is just one of those a satisfactory solution of which can only follow on an agreement in terms. What is the Conservative party, and who are its leaders? Admitting that the Carlton Club includes the one and the other, it only remains to contradict the "John Bull's" contradiction. I am not at liberty to mention particulars, but I can most confidently assert, on the grounds just laid down, that the "Morning Herald" is henceforth the accredited Tory organ.

The financial results of the great Handel Festival are, it is understood, very gratifying. On the credit side of the account there is the formidable sum of £13,000, which exceeds by £3,000 the limit of expense originally fixed by the directors of the Palace. The total receipts amount to about £25,000; so that, upon a rough estimate of the surplus, there is a clear gain of £10,000. The Crystal Palace Company will take seven-ninths of that sum, leaving about £2,000 as a nucleus fund for the celebration of the Handel centenary in 1859.

A piece of gossip, for which I am by no means accountable, places the Manchester picture-market in a high position. It is said that Prince Albert offered to purchase five paintings by local artists, and was only successful in getting one. Determined not to be balked in his kind wish to pay Manchester a well-deserved compliment, the Prince (I am again indebted to rumour) has commissioned Mr. Hammersley to paint the "Drachenfels from Bonn." There is something natural in this choice of a subject by his Royal Highness; but at the same time one would have been at least equally well pleased had he given an order for something a little nearer home.

The Haymarket Theatre promises a new comedy by Mr. Tom Taylor, and a new farce by Mr. Robert Bell. The comedy has but just been read; the farce is in rehearsal.

Another Barney Williams epidemic has broken out at the Adelphi. The symptoms are not new, but aggravated.

I hear that Verdi, young Italy's composer in despite of northern criticism, is at work on a new opera for Mr. Lumley.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMEATH'S Sea-Bathing Bill has been rejected by the House of Lords.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. LUMLEY's management appears to be fertile in tenors, and another of those *rare aces* was produced at her Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday last, in the opera of "La Sonnambula." One of our theatrical contemporaries ("adapting" his conduct from that of a French critic, who announced ten days since the second appearance of Miss Balfe in the "Barber of Seville") had already mentioned Signor Belati's *debut*, and had even praised him for the quiet and unostentatious manner in which he had effected it. So quiet and unostentatious indeed was the whole affair, that no one but our contemporary heard anything of it until the evening we have mentioned, when a large audience was collected, partly by the expected tenorial *debut*, but principally by the desire to see Madame Albani for the first time this season in the part of Amina.

The new tenor has a very powerful voice for his size, and one of which the coarseness is in direct proportion to the volume; but, to begin with, he has the defect of his class, and is very small. Standing by the side of his rustic mistress, who seems quite capable of justifying the title in a physical sense, he appears a shade shorter, and about three parts thinner than that lady. Accordingly, he has that mean look which is fatal to so many tenors, which has been so injurious even to Calzolari with all his talent, and the effect of which in the case of Duprez was only overcome by the greatest genius. Some of Signor Belati's strong but coarse chest-notes produced an effect on the audience; but he resorts very frequently to the falsetto, and sings generally without taste, while in his manner and bearing, there is a total absence of what is called "distinction." Accordingly, if Signor Belati were far better in voice and style than he really is, he would still be unfitted for the sympathetic parts of operas.

It is a positive curse to tenors to be so small, and the more so as baritones and basses (such as Graziani, Benvenuto, Formes, Lubbe and Zeller) are generally big. Instead of creating genuine and honourable interest, the recognised lover of this piece can only aspire to excite pity, and pity him we assuredly must, when in the duets and trios he is brought into collision with his taller and more dignified rivals. Even when Tamberlik was singing at Covent Garden and the Lyceum in the "Trovatore," with Graziani for his baritone and rival, every one sympathised with the latter—travelling, cruel, and hateful to the soprano and heroine as he was nevertheless supposed to be. Every one felt that in real life, Graziani, although his notes were of a lower range, would in spite of that purely operatic objection, be at once preferred to his puny serenading competitor, whom he would chase from the sight of Leonora, as in the present day we chase an organ-grinder from before our windows.

However, it must not be supposed that we are going to estimate the merits of new singers by means of a yard measure. Giugliani, although it happens that his face and figure are vastly in his favour, would be a fine singer, and accepted as such, even if he were a dwarf. Signor Corsi, too, is about as unprepossessing in appearance as any vocalist of ancient or modern times, yet he succeeded in impressing the audience very vividly in the somewhat lugubrious opera of "Nino," and achieved a very great success as Masetto in "Don Giovanni." In the part of the Count in the "Sonnambula," the actor was neither so grotesque as Masetto, nor seriously grotesque—or in other words, picturesque—as in "Nino;" he has only to be gentleman-like, and to sing agreeably; and accordingly, Signor Corsi having nothing at all in the histrionic line to do, does it rather badly; while as regards the vocal part, we may almost say that he sings disagreeably. Nevertheless, he is one of those real artists who, as a matter of course, know how any given part ought to be played, and who, if unable to execute it satisfactorily, can nevertheless indicate what its execution should be.

Madame Albani, the greatest singer of the day, executes the music of the heroine in an incomparable manner. She is the "most musical," but the "least melancholy" Amina who has ever appeared. In the first act she is very joyful, in the last she is somewhat sad, but she never allows herself to be thoroughly sentimental in any part of the piece. Her vocalisation, but for the ease which characterises it, would appear miraculous. It is especially remarkable in the air of the first act and in the finale.

"Don Giovanni" has been performed three times a week since its production, now nearly three weeks since, at her Majesty's Theatre. Such a run is far more "unprecedented" than the cast to which that adjective is strangely enough applied. Last week, as it is to compensate for Tuesday night, which, as we have said, was devoted to the "Sonnambula," a representation of "Don Giovanni" took place on Monday evening. The great attraction in the opera is certainly Mlle. Piccolomini's performance in the part of Zerlina, and we recommend anyone who wishes to judge once and finally of the difference of style exhibited in this vocalist's rendering of the character, and that of Madame Bosio, to compare or rather contrast the two *artistes* in the same part. Of this there has been more than one opportunity during the past fortnight. Of course, we prefer Madame Bosio, and although the audience applaud Mlle. Piccolomini most enthusiastically, we think she might be safely recommended to introduce a little more gentleness and a little less "piquancy" into her representation of the part.

The second of Mr. Benedict's morning concerts, the first of which we noticed last week, attracted a large audience to her Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday morning. The principal novelties were a selection from Gluck's "Orfeo," in which the part of Orfeo was taken by Madame Albani; the trio from "Il Matrimonio Segreto," and the well-known ballad by Balfe, "I dream that I dwell," etc., were sung very charmingly by Mlle. Piccolomini.

Mlle. Plunkett has appeared in a new divertissement at the Royal Italian Opera. Accordingly this company is at present in possession of the services of two of the very best *danceuses* of the day, the said Mlle. Plunkett and Mlle. Cerito; and in spite of this, no one waits for the divertissement at the Lyceum!

The operatic mania is raging with undiminished force on the other side of the water. At Astley's the "Trovatore" has enjoyed a considerable run on horseback; and we believe every new work which is brought out meets with equal success. We hear that there was no falling off in the "Sonnambula," which, as that opera was also played on horseback, was most fortunate for all concerned. There are few operas which specially suggest equitation; but as Count Rodolfo invariably makes his entry with a riding-whip in his hand, it may be said that the "Sonnambula" suggests horsemanship at least as much as any other of the popular operas.

At the Surrey the "Traviata" is being played and sung in English and American by Messrs. Haigh and Durand in the one language and Miss Lucy Scott in the other. It will be remembered that this work was submitted to the licenser some years ago in the shape of the "Dame au Camelias," literally translated into English. The dramatic censor very properly refused to sanction its performance, for if we once admit that such an office should exist at all, surely this was a case for its occupant to exercise his functions. Still, after tolerating its representation in Italian, it was difficult to object to it in English, although there are certainly pieces played every week at the Bouffes Parisiens of which a literal translation would be quite insufferable on the English stage. However, either the addition of Verdi's music or the transference of the scene from the nineteenth to the eighteenth century, appears to have done away with all objections on the part of the licenser, and accordingly the English version of the "Traviata" is now meeting with the greatest success. It has been suggested to us, that the work is less offensive in an operatic than in a purely dramatic form, by reason of the obscurity produced by the vocal efforts of the performers; and as regards the English representation, this is thoroughly true. Figaro says, that when a thing is too stupid to be spoken, it is sung. Instead of the word "stupid," he may read "improper," and the remark will appear applicable to opera in the present day. Miss Scott, we must add, acts the part of Violetta with considerable energy, throwing into her performance enough fire for herself and her lover into the bargain. Mr. Haigh, the said lover, sings without taste or even discrimination. He has a good voice, but no idea what to do with it. In spite of this, the duets between Violetta and Alfredo are loudly applauded. Mr. Durand, in the part of the very heavy father, is more ponderous than paternal. If he had any feeling for his son, he would endeavour to sing in tune.

M. Julien's festivals have been continued with the greatest success. The Mendelssohn nights collected large and most enthusiastic audiences.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

THIS museum, which was thrown open to the public on Wednesday, is a combination—naturally on a very small scale—of the British Museum, the Crystal Palace, and the Vernon Gallery. It contains a library, a museum of ornamental art, specimens of architecture and sculpture, and a gallery of pictures, which is in many respects superior to any other in the kingdom. The origin of this museum has been so sudden, or rather its formation has been so rapid, that except to the residents in the neighbourhood its existence may be said to have been unknown until Saturday last, when it was visited by her Majesty. Accordingly, we may as well say a few words about its history. The system by which state assistance is granted in the promotion of what is officially termed "primary" and "secondary" education, is directed by a Committee of the Privy Council, with Lord Granville at its head. The Primary Division confines itself to aiding the general education of the poor, while the functions of the Secondary Division (represented by the Department of Science and Art) consist in aiding the diffusion, among all classes of the community, of those principles of science and art which are calculated to advance the industrial interests of the country. The Department of Science and Art originated nearly twenty years ago in the School of Design, established under the President of the Board of Trade, at Somerset House, with the view of teaching art in its application to manufactures, so as ultimately to abolish those hideous designs to which our manufactures appeared hopelessly condemned.

Nevertheless, in 1851, when the Great Exhibition took place, it was seen that although English productions were equal and even superior to those sent over to compete with them as regarded workmanship and material, their inferiority in design was still most marked. It was thus evident that unless we speedily improved our designs, there would necessarily be a great falling off in the success of our manufactures, and it was therefore determined to extend the School of Design into the present Department of Science and Art, and the education in art of the whole people, instead of merely a class, became the avowed object of the Government. At the same time, the nucleus of a permanent Museum of Works of Art was formed at Marlborough House, and this now forms part of the collection at South Kensington.

South Kensington is merely a new and "genteel" name for the district more generally known as Old Brompton, and the new Government buildings have been erected close by the well-known Roman Catholic Oratory, which is itself in suggestive proximity to the church of St. Ignace, the celebrated Puseyite. Externally, these buildings are most ugly, and their popular nickname of "the boilers" is quite appropriate. Those who remember the long-backed *anacore* to the Palace of Industry in Paris, will be at once reminded of it by the very ugly constructions which have been erected for the express purpose of creating a love for the beautiful among the inhabitants of our western suburb.

The special objects for which the Department of Science and Art was organised are:—To train teachers to give instruction in art, to assist provincial committees in establishing schools of art, to hold public examinations, and award prizes to the most deserving candidates, and lastly to collect works of art, pictures, sculpture, &c., in the Central Museum, and books and engraving in the Central Library. The Museum is only one portion of the Institution, which also comprises a training school for masters and mistresses, and the offices for transacting the general work of the Department.

Complete guide-books and catalogues are in course of preparation, and in order to render the descriptions more intelligible to the visitors, the walls of each department of the Museum have been painted a different colour. On entering the building we are as forcibly struck by the excellent arrangement of the interior as we were from the outside, by the utter inelegance of the architecture. The rooms are lofty and well ventilated, while the painting and decorations are simple and in excellent taste. The corridors, vestibules, staircases, and all the communications are spacious, and quite large enough to accommodate a much larger number of persons than are at all likely to visit it. On Monday afternoon and on Tuesday evening the rooms were crowded for the private view, and if we allow as a general rule that the number of persons present at a private view is only twice as great as that of an ordinary gathering on a public day (certainly a very fair calculation), we arrive at the conclusion that inconvenient crowding will be practically impossible at the South Kensington Museum. The public convenience will also be much increased by a waiting-room adjoining the entrance hall, where visitors have the privilege of waiting until omnibuses "to all parts of London" pass by, and we cannot too highly applaud the care with which this room has been fitted up, when we reflect how long some of these visitors will have to stay. Indeed, the distance and inaccessibility (to a certain portion of the population) of the new Museum, are its greatest faults.

The most interesting part of the Museum is decidedly the Gallery of British Fine Arts, or "Sheepshanks Gallery," as it will probably be called. The collection is contained in four rooms, which are well lighted from the top, and also, as the visitors on Tuesday evening were delighted to find, thoroughly well ventilated. The only point in the building to which an objection can be made is the flooring of polished red brick, very beautiful in itself, but not very refreshing to the eyes, and by no means advantageous to the colour of the pictures.

In some respects, the Sheepshanks Gallery is the finest we have, and it is noticeable that all its best specimens were executed when the painters were in their full vigour. It contains no less than sixteen Landseers, half-a-dozen Constables, twenty-four Leslies, and thirty-two Mulreeds, while the collection of drawings and etchings is comparatively more valuable even than that of the paintings.

Many of the best Mulreeds had nobly represented the English school of art at the Paris exhibition of 1855, such as "Choosing the Wedding Gown," with its wonderful details; the "Butt" with the red-faced boy waiting for the cherry—not more red than his own countenance—to be thrown into his gaping mouth; and the yellow "Blackheath Park," which caused some of the French critics to affirm that England, to which they deny a sun, has at the same time neither green grass nor green trees—forgetting that in autumn, fields and forests are never green.

But Mr. Sheepshanks had not only all the best Mulreeds, he had also the best Leslies and Landseers in the French Exhibition; and now, at the South Kensington Museum, we have, among the works of Leslie, his beautiful "Florizel and Perdita," and the original of his well-known "Tristram Shandy" picture, "My Uncle Toby and the Widow Wadman"—the best piece of comedy he ever painted; while among Landseer's masterpieces we have the "Highland Drovers," "There is no place like Home," the "Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner," and half a dozen of those works which have especially helped to make the painter's name European.

Constable is well represented by his "View of Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds." The painter's peculiar style is here very effective, the atmosphere is admirable, and everything about the picture is as fresh as nature.

The Turners are at present known only by their frames, to which the labels are in all cases affixed. The works intended to fill up these voids (*valde defendi*) are, "Line-fishing off Hastings" (exhibited 1855); "Venice" (1840); "St. Michael's Mount" (1834); "Coves, with the Royal Yacht Squadron" (1828); and "Vessel in distress off Yarmouth" (known as "Blue Lights," and first exhibited in 1831).

Specimens of Redgrave, David Roberts, Webster, and many other of our most popular artists are contained in this Museum, the contents of which can scarcely be described in a satisfactory manner after a single visit, on an occasion which had collected about twice as many persons (in proportion).

Mr. Sheepshanks's gift comprises 234 oil paintings, and a considerable number of sketches, drawings, and etchings, almost all the works of British artists; but it is not the donor's intention that it should be kept apart or bear his name. The primary object for which it was bestowed was that of being used for reference and instruction in the schools established in connection with the department of Science and Art: this first object being secured, it is to be open to the general public, as far as may be consistent with the fulfilment of the former and principal intention. The pictures forming the collection range over a period of about fifty years, and exemplify the

collection of models in wax and clay moulded by the same illustrious artist.

The educational department of the museum occupies the centre of a large iron building, which forms a wing of the entire edifice. It comprises specimens of scientific instruments, objects of natural history, models of school-rooms, casts of classical statues, and a library of 5,000 volumes, all admirably arranged. "Education" is a wide word, as will be obvious enough, when we state the official subdivision of the department into "school buildings and fittings, general education, drawing and the fine arts, music, household economy, geography and astronomy, natural history, chemistry, physics, mechanics, apparatus for teaching the deaf and dumb, idiots, &c., and physical training." To this collection, which probably will be the most popular part of the whole exhibition, the "Commissioners of Patents' Museum" forms a sort of supplement. In this department the history of the steam-engine is copiously illustrated.

The nucleus of a collection of sculpture has been formed by the assemblage of about 50 works, contributed by 25 artists, among whom are Messrs. Bailey, Bell, Foley, Munro, Calder Marshall, and the late Sir R. Westmacott. By the collection of the architectural museum, which occupies a large portion of the gallery and descends into the lower corridor, a complete history of the mediæval architecture of France and England is represented by almost numberless casts of decorative details.

The "trade collection," which is likewise in the gallery, and is the property of the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, will not always remain in its present complete state. It is chiefly composed of the natural products used in the various arts, and of these the animal products are alone to be retained, the others being too fragmentary to justify their retention in a distinct museum. Specimens, therefore, of mineral and vegetable produce will be distributed among various national and provincial museums which admit of improvement.

Another department is the "economic museum," formed by Mr. Twining, and presented by him to the Government. The articles in this department are intended to further the knowledge of "common things" with a view to the general amelioration of mankind.

Everything has been done to render the new Museum a source of instruction and amusement to all classes alike, the exigencies of time being taken into consideration, as well as the exigencies of the pocket. On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, being students' days, the price of admission will be 6d; on the other days of the week admission will be free. The hours will extend from 10 to 4, but the Museum will likewise be open on the evenings of Mondays and Thursdays, from 7 to 10. The catalogues required cost 1d. each. The admission of the public to the Museum lighted up in the evening is the first experiment of the kind in the case of a public institution, and it is one which is certain to be acceptable to those who are compelled to toil throughout the day, and who are anxious for something like intellectual relaxation after their labours.

MONUMENT TO SAMUEL ROGERS.

UNDER the walls of the pretty church of Hornsey—itsself set in a bit of rural scenery much too unsophisticated and charming to be called suburban—lies the body of Samuel Rogers, poet. A poor grave for a rich man in this generation, but because of the quiet and the beauty that surround it a fit grave for a poet of any generation. Recently a monument equally modest has been placed in the chancel of the church by the surviving members of Rogers's family. It is a medallion executed in bold relief by Behnes, and bears an inscription which is shown in the engraving of the monument that appears upon this page. The chaste dignity and benevolence which the sculptor has thrown into this marble face, are so well kept in the engraving that his work may be safely left to the criticism of our readers without a remark.

MONUMENT TO VISCOUNT CHEWTON.

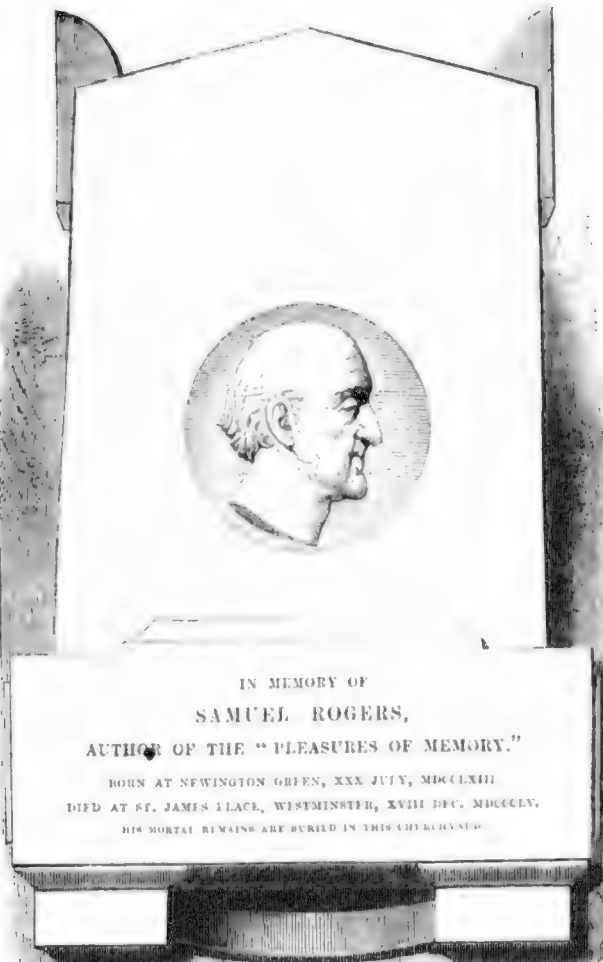
THIS monument to the memory of the gallant soldier, who fell covered with wounds while leading his company into action at the battle of the Alma, and who afterwards died of those wounds at Scutari, is about to be erected in Navestock Church, Essex. It is the work of Mr. M. Noble, of Barton Street, one of our best known sculptors, whose statue of the Queen recently erected at Manchester we engraved a few weeks since. The



MONUMENT TO VISCOUNT CHEWTON OF THE SCOTS FUSILIER GUARDS, IN NAVESTOCK CHURCH.

architectural portion of the monument is bold and unaffected; the likeness of the lamented nobleman is said to be good, and the accompanying emblems of the sword, the laurel, and oak, are arranged with freedom and taste. The following is the inscription on the tablet:—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM FREDERICK VISCOUNT CHEWTON,
ELDEST SON OF THE 8TH EARL WALDEGRAVE.
HAVING BEEN 17 YEARS A SOLDIER,
HE LED HIS COMPANY OF THE SCOTS FUSILIER GUARDS INTO ACTION
AT THE BATTLE OF THE ALMA, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 1854,
AND FELL FAR IN ADVANCE, COVERED WITH WOUNDS,
FROM THE EFFECTS OF WHICH HE DIED AT SCUTARI, OCTOBER 8TH, 1854, AGED 31.
"IN THE SIGHT OF THE UNWISE HE SEEMED TO DIE, AND HIS
DEPARTURE IS TAKEN FOR MISERY, BUT HE IS IN PEACE."—WISDOM III., 2.
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY HIS WIDOW FRANCES CHEWTON
AND HIS COUSIN FRANCES WALDEGRAVE.



MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF THE POET ROGERS, IN HORNSEY CHURCH.

chief characteristics of British Art so far as they can be displayed in works of cabinet proportions.

The collection of works belonging to the department of ornamental art occupies the corridor in which the visitor finds himself immediately after his entrance. Only a portion of the entire collection—which numbers upwards of 4,000 objects—is at present exhibited, inasmuch as about a fourth part, including the whole of the acquisitions from the Bernal collection, have been sent to Manchester. Fine specimens of mediæval furniture and of painted glass (ancient and modern) are to be found among these works, in addition to a most extensive series of reproductions, consisting of plaster casts, electrotype copies, engravings, &c. To the larger objects formerly exhibited at Marlborough House a hall in the centre of the buildings is appropriated. Here are copies from the frescoes of the loggia of Raphael, the cast from Michael Angelo's colossal figure of David, and the



THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—(OPENED TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY LAST.)

FASHIONS.

THE warm weather has drawn forth a vast variety of light dresses of muslin, barège, and other transparent materials. All are made either with flounces or double skirts. For morning parties, and also for the theatres and *petites soirées*, white muslin dresses are very generally adopted. They are made with flounces, or with two or even three skirts finished with runnings of coloured ribbon; blue, pink, peach-blossom, or pale green, are hues admirably well adapted for this style of trimming. For early morning costume, dresses of printed Jaconnet are much in favour. They are made as open robes if intended only for within doors; but if intended for early walking costume, they may have double skirts finished with very broad hems. A skirt of printed Jaconnet is frequently worn with a jacket of white pique, trimmed with braid or fringe.

Dresses of organdie and barège have flounces with patterns exquisitely diversified in design and colour. When intended for evening negligé, they are made with low corsages, and are worn either with lace jackets or with fichus of lace.

Mantelets of black silk are now frequently trimmed with guipure, and are rendered still more light and showy by guipure insertions. Lace mantelets, either black or white, are also extremely fashionable.

Bonnets of paille de riz, or fine sewed chip, are frequently trimmed with coloured crape instead of ribbon; but in all cases they are profusely ornamented with flowers. White or coloured crape bonnets, either bouilloné or plain, are highly fashionable for morning parties. They are trimmed round the edge of the front with a fall of blonde, figured with pearls or with white bugles. Feathers, either ostrich or marabout, are highly fashionable for trimming bonnets; but they are confined strictly to a *recherché* style of costume. We have seen a bonnet of exquisitely fine Leghorn, trimmed in most tasteful style with a wreath of mingled narcissus and lilac. The strings were of very broad ribbon, shaded in the hues of the bird of Paradise tail. A bonnet of paille de riz, trimmed in a somewhat peculiar style, is also deserving of notice. It had on one side a tuft of rosebuds fastened by a bow of black velvet. The bonnet was edged with black velvet, and with a fall of white blonde. The inside trimming was a ruche of tulle and a wreath of small rosebuds. The strings were of broad white sarsenet ribbon.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The figure with the hat represents an elegant morning costume suitable for the country. It consists of an open dress and jupon of white muslin, both being richly ornamented with needlework. The jupon, or under skirt, has one broad flounce, worked in a rich pattern with a scalloped edge. Above this broad flounce the front is ornamented with a second flounce, and with rows of lace insertion and needlework, partly disposed horizontally and partly longitudinally. The upper robe, which opens in front so as to display the work on the skirt, has three flounces, narrower than those on the jupon, but worked in the same style. This robe is just sufficiently long to descend to the top of the flounce on the jupon. The corsage, which has a basque, is profusely ornamented with rich needlework and lace insertion. Over the shoulders there is a running of pink ribbon, covered with lace insertion, forming a fichu terminating in a point at the back and in front, where it is fastened by a bow of pink ribbon. The sides of the open robe are fastened to the jupon by pink bows. The sleeves are formed of two very full and broad frills of needlework, slightly

gathered up in front of the arm by bows of pink ribbon. A round Pamela hat of gray chip, trimmed with feathers of the same colour. The other figure represents a fashionable promenade or carriage dress. The jupon is of silver-gray silk *châné* with white, and it has four flounces, each edged with a broad band of peach-blossom silk. The basquine is of black spotted net, and is nearly covered with rows of black velvet and black guipure. Bonnet of white crape, ornamented with Chinese primroses. Strings of peach-colour ribbon.



JULY FASHIONS—WALKING DRESSES.

THE NEW CAVALRY UNIFORMS.

THE costume of that most brilliant arm of the service, the Cavalry, has undergone great changes, the chief of which is in the substitution of the German frock for the old coat. Our stalwart Dragoons, therefore, now wear a dress which, whatever else may be said of it, certainly allows them more freedom of action for their limbs, and as their epaulettes have been abolished, this will take a great weight off their shoulders. The new dress will have but very little of that most expensive and equally useless article, gold lace. This will have the effect of being a great saving to the officers, for while, according to the old plan, the Hussar jacket cost fifty guineas, it will now cost but fifteen. The uniform of the Light Cavalry formerly costing nineteen guineas, will under the present arrangement not cost more than thirteen. Gold lace, however, will not be entirely dispensed with, as the Light Cavalry (with the exception of the Lancers), will wear five and six stripes of lace, as shown in the engraving.

THE WELLINGTON MONUMENT.—The exhibition of the designs for the Wellington monument will be opened in the first week of July. Already more than sixty have been sent in, and on Saturday a ship arrived from Italy with a whole cargo of models. The whole of the area lately used for the display of the designs for the new offices will be appropriated to the exhibition of the sculptures. The monuments will be erected on platforms, in rows, in such manner as will admit of each of them being advantageously seen on every side. The exhibition will be confined for the first three days to members of the Legislature, and afterwards thrown open to the public, and will remain open for three weeks or a month.

THE FATE OF WALKER'S ARMY.—According to the report of Henningsen, one of Walker's filibustering generals, during two years, of 2,500 men enlisted or holding commissions, about 1,000 were killed or died of their wounds or sickness, about 700 deserted, 250 were discharged, 435 were at Rivas on the 1st of May, and 80 surrendered or escaped down the river. Total, 2,465, leaving 53 unaccounted for.

PROPOSED BANKING ALLIANCE.—The "Journal des Actionnaires" contains an article recommending that an understanding should be come to between the different great banks of Europe, for the means which they may think it advisable to adopt to lessen the intensity of any monetary crisis. A common understanding of such a nature would, it conceives, prevent many financial difficulties. The first condition of such an accord would be, it suggests, to get the notes of the various establishments received freely in the different countries; and, as a commencement, the banks of England and France ought to accept their respective paper. The same journal also recommends as a useful measure to have the public funds of the two countries quoted reciprocally at Paris and London.

A BRITISH EXHIBITION IN AMERICA.—A scheme is on foot for organising an annual exhibition of works of British Art in New York. The proposition promises well, considering the rapidly-increasing demand for works of Art in America. A collection is to be in readiness by the end of August for the transit to New York. The project meets with the support of many of our leading artists, and the American native artists, and some capitalists and public men in the United States, receive the idea warmly.

17TH LANCERS, SERGEANT.
5TH HUSSARS, SERGEANT.

3RD DRAGOON GUARDS, CORPORAL.

3RD LIGHT DRAGOONS, SERGEANT.

1ST ROYAL DRAGOONS, PRIVATE.

2ND DRAGOONS, SERGEANT.

LIFE GUARDS, PRIVATE.
ROYAL HORSE GDS. PLUT, CORPORAL

NEW MILITARY COSTUMES—CAVALRY.—(FROM A SKETCH BY SERGEANT W. DRUMMOND.)

THE BADDINGTON PEERAGE.

BEING THE LIVES OF THEIR LORDSHIPS.

A STORY OF THE BEST AND THE WORST SOCIETY.

BY GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA.

(Continued from page 398.)

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

PHILIP LESLIE SEES THE BEST SOCIETY.

WITH two sovereigns, and the Viscountess Baddington's card in his pocket, and a light heart in his bosom, Philip Leslie strode away from Mr. Underwamp's Wardour Street Art repository, building castles in the air as he went, enough to relieve London from the stigma of architectural sterility for years. Money, it has been said, will heal all diseases. It is certain that it is a sovereign remedy for heart-sickness, soul-weariness, faintness of heart, paralysis of will, and nausea of mind.

Our painter was new to London, and found himself cast, a mere cock-bout, upon that mighty ocean for ever boiling and surging, and in its insatiable encroachments submerging islands and continents of suburbs, washing them away with brick and mortar surf, and whose wheeled waves roll and howl the whole night-season through. Philip, to use a very common simile, was as tired as a dog; yet he was to the full as lively as the most wear-footed canine traveller, who in the waste of wandering has suddenly come on an oasis of broken meat. To pursue the canine theory, the effect of the two sovereigns so ungraciously and acutely bestowed on him by the lady of the veil, had not been unlike that experienced by a dog who has been pelted with marrow-bones: the bone hurt him, but the marrow fed him.

He walked about four good hours in that city which may be paved with gold, but which is assuredly roofed with shabaz hard as the nether millstone. He grew more fatigued at every step; but he did not entertain the idea of going to bed—first, because he had a lordly uncertainty as to where he should sleep (having money); secondly, because the scene was so new and strange to him, that he could not resist walking up and down, and going to and fro, in the marvellous streets he encountered, always finding out something new, something astonishing, something prodigious. There are some men who nothing astonishes, and who, were their good-mother's ghost to rise before them, would confine themselves to yawningly expostulating with the phantom on the impropriety of appearing in a bed-gown; and would finally ring the bell for the housemaid, and bid her show the late Mrs. S. the door. But Philip Leslie had a reverent and an inquiring spirit. The qualities are compatible. He was always asking questions; but he could be astonished at the reply.

So he went up and down, and before midnight struck he had seen Hyde Park Corner and Temple Bar. He had past great club-houses with windows lighted up, in whose embrasures bold-headed old gentlemen dozed over the evening paper, and through whose plate-glass panes he could see the sumptuous coffee-room diners laid out, and white waiters dined sipping their wine with a *gusto* which might have been enhanced by the consciousness that their club subscription enabled them to imitate the best of Port and Burgundy at trade-price; past grand mansions where there were balls and routs—for routs had not quite gone out of fashion then—where the thoroughfare was blocked up with carriages, where policemen shouted, and coachmen swore, and linkboys darted about almost as nimbly as the pick-pockets; past theatres whose aristocratic audience came mincingly out to their carriages in pink capotes and crush hats—whose humbler patronisers rushed feverishly out (for the night was very hot) and dived into oyster-shops, and threw themselves into the consumption of cool beverages with a thirsty frenzy. He struggled down Regent Street, almost blinded with the gas, dazzled and delighted with the show, overflowing with rich merchandise, jostled and hustled by the crowd of bearded foreigners, and shopmen, and milliners' apprentices just released from the thrall of the shop, all delighted at having nothing to do, and doing it to their hearts' content. He passed those two grand streets, Pall Mall and Waterloo Place, whose architectural splendours we somewhat too superciliously sneer at, but which to my mind need but a water instead of a macadamised highway throughout their length, to rival Venice's Grand Sea-streets, and wake the genius of a new Canaletti.

He passed an ugly stone post, with an uglier bronze figure tottering on its summit, and descended a giant staircase into the park. Among the green leaves and the glimmering gas-lamps he walked a good half-hour, glad as a relief to feel his footsteps fall so noiselessly, and enjoying a temporary rest from the roaring of the wheel-waves. Curiously, too, he peered by times at mysterious figures, clad—the light was strong enough to see that—in dank and greasy rags, who were huddled up on the wooden benches, seemingly asleep. The intuitive perceptions of poverty taught Philip what these living bundles were. They were destitute, and had no beds. He had changed one of his sovereigns, of course, by this time, and had dined plainly, but plentifully, at a great glaring eating-house in Oxford Street, where a flabby waiter, who seemed—so hot and meaty was he—to transpire pork gravy, had babbled out to him a wondrously incoherent rhapsody about "Veal-an-am-stewed-duck-roast-anchovies-salmon-very-nice sir," and had slapped down before him a repast served in pewter, which in flavour, appeared to partake of the qualities of all these viands.

Philip flung a shilling to one of these forlorn wretches, who received it with a dull grunt as of a settled hatred against society, which could not be appeased by such trifling alms; and appeared to think, moreover, that once without a bed, always without a bed, and hiding the coin in some crevice of his rags, huddled himself up and went to sleep again. Yet by some mysterious alibi of freemasonry, the secret of the donor's liberality seemed to have been instantaneously telegraphed all over the park; for battalions of beggars began to debouch from leafy coverts, ragged regiments deployed from before the Horse Guards; from the very ground even, there seemed to start up breadless and bedless vagabonds—men in rags, children in rags, babies in tatters, octogenarians with no shoes—and they whined and groaned, and fled swiftly, as a burly form in the distance seemed to presage a policeman. And worse than all these, came floating dimly on the night air—even as the shadowy form of Francesca of Rimini came floating before the sorrowful sight of Dante—dreadful phantoms who should have been women, and young and fair; phantoms with calico bedgowns and velvet mantles, with rich silk dresses and shawls of tattered linsey-wolsey, with bonnets all flying and fluttering with tarnished ribbons and broken feathers, ghastly and garish, so that they looked like death's-heads bedizened in pink and blue sarinet. This regarding with a mournful amazement, the painter fled the Park, and losing his way in the mazes of Westminster, battled for another half-hour in a dreadful labyrinth of choked streets—narrow, crowded, evil-smelling: Great Peter Street, Rochester Row, Broadway, Tothill Street, and streets without names, and alleys with no outlets, in the midst of a raging, roaring asturnalia of oaths, hot eel pies, alcohol, cheap butchers' meat, costermongers' barrows, fried fish, red neckerchiefs, bare necks, bad sixpences, false weights, black eyes, naked feet, torn trousers, rag-shops, comic songs, farthing rush-lights, bundles of firewood, sweetstuff, adulterated beer, stale vegetables, coramio jackets, vice, ignorance, crime, and want. For in this guise looked Westminster twenty-two years since; and in that guise it stands now, in the shadow of the great Abbey, and in the rent-roll of the Dean and Chapter, to witness if I lie.

We Londoners born, who have seen all these things unnumbered times, and come to look at them at last with a stale and accustomed air, cannot help the blunting of our perception at these marvellous contrasts. We see them every day, and they surprise us no longer. But he who is new to this gorgeous Gehenna of a city, shall hardly fail to come away marvelling and wondering, grieving and rejoicing, from the first contemplation of the night wonders of London.

The Abbey encompassed the painter round about for many minutes till he could extricate himself from the filthy tangle in which he had become entangled. He saw the two great towers, ever close at hand, so it seemed, yet every effort he essayed to make, strait for them, only threw him further back into the howling wilderness. He asked a policeman at last where he was.

"You're in Westminster," answered the unctionary: "and if you'll take y advice, you'll get out of it as soon as ever you can."

Several gratuitous hustlings Philip had already received from ill-looking passers by, evidently volunteered for the purpose of provoking a collision, made him much disposed to agree with the conclusions of the guardian of the Westminster householders' lives and properties. So, at a venture, Philip asked his way to Charing Cross, which he had read of as being centrally situated, and where he thought it probable he might obtain a bed. Probable indeed! had he not near forty shillings about him? The Twistlock would have been proud to receive him, and had he been able to have raised a carpet-bag and the loan of a clothes-brush, there is no saying what aristocratic hotel would not have taken him in.

"First turning to the right, second to the left, then go straight on—," the policeman was commencing.

"It's no good," Philip interposed. "You might as well talk Chinese to me as tell me my way. Will you show it me?"

The policeman happened to be a good-humoured one, and moreover in a peculiarly amiable temper that evening, having given evidence in the morning, at the Old Bailey, against a resurrection-man, who, owing to the decline of *that* drama, had turned coiner, and whose exile to Van Diemen's Land he had been instrumental in promoting. So he not only conducted Philip safely out of the Redanian penitentiary of Westminster, but did not leave him till he had set him fairly on his way up Whitehall—indicated with his municipal forefinger Charing Cross, "which he might know by the large 'ouse with the lion a top a waggin' of his tail" (a humorous policeman this)—and directed him to a coffee-house, where he could have a bed for a couple of shillings. "The sheets is well aired," he remarked to Philip as a crowning witicism, "and the chambermaid's very pretty. She's a civil, and knows her catyichism like cream-churn." No saying, he spun the shilling which Philip respectfully tendered him up in the air, in the manner of tossing pinnen; and nodding affably to the painter, hummed the refrain of a popular air then in vogue, "All Round my Hat," and went on his merry way—a very Rabelais of the P. Division, jocund in his blue broadcloth, and humorous in his oilskin and his heavy-lidded highlows.

Philip was far too tired, on his arrival at the haven of rest pointed out by the policeman, to notice the personal appearance of the chambermaid, particularly the visual point of view, or to satisfy himself, by examination, as to her theological attainments. He went to bed, slept with a dead soundness, was called at ten o'clock in the morning, and rose up with a clear head, hopeful, and almost happy.

Punctuality in keeping appointments was not one of Philip Leslie's virtues, but when he did keep one, he was often an hour before his time, and to surprise the person he had to meet by the exact coincidence of his appearance with the time specified. In truth, he had an amazing stock of new brooms in his wardrobe cupboard, but they soon were worn down to the stump, or else the confining band of withies got loose, and the twigs went away anywhere. On the present occasion, mindful of Mr. Underwamp's caution of the previous night, he provided himself with a broom, the newest and strongest at his command, sternly determined to sweep the slightest speck of dust from off the pavement of his good intention. He began by investing nearly all his surplus capital in improving the condition of his costume, and by the kindly assistance of a bath and a barber, and the adventitious aid of a Jew tailor who had so far forgotten the wrongs of his nation, and his traditional hatred of the Nazarenes, as to offer to all the world his gigantic stock of summer garments at ridiculously low prices, he found himself, within half-an-hour, looking somewhat more like an artist, though still sufficiently poverty-stricken in appearance, and somewhat less like a dusty serf-servant. Young as he was to the ways of London, it is surprising that he should have been able to effect even this metamorphosis with so moderate means. Had he been better acquainted with the inner mysteries of the Great City, he might have chanced the semblance of his outer man at even a more reasonable figure. For, look you, scholar, he who knows London may issue forth from the Patmos where he hath lain overnight—issue forth, ashamed of the morning and its bright light, haggard, dirty, ragged, beaten, bruised, and seemingly hopelessly creased and tumbled; but, in an hour's time, and at the cost of a few shillings, he may walk down Regent Street a dandy. For there are cunning men, dwelling up occult courts and dubious "buildings" and equivocal "rents," who will mend his torn habiliments, give a new gloss to his soiled broadcloth, paint his black eye, give the lustre of a Venetian mirror to his bankrupt boots, simulate false heels for them, and anoint their leathern wounds with sabled cobblers' wax, supply him with snowy fronts and false collars, stiff as mill-boards, iron out and build up atresh his compound-fractured hat, wash him, shave him, curl him, oil him, perfume him, send him out as from the nathest of handboxes, and all within the compass of a crown's expenditure.

There were divers temptations in the way when Philip's toilet was completed—temptations in the shape of print-shops and picture dealers, which might under other circumstances have confined his peregrinations within half a mile of Charing Cross for hours; but he kept Mr. Underwamp's caution steadily in his mind; and one had not long struck before he found himself (after much direction, mis-direction, and re-direction) in Curzon Street, May air.

Satisfying himself that he had the best of the venerable sandboy (the only sandboy, by the way, who is not jolly)—Time, he walked slowly up and down some dozen times, that odd little thread of almost underground stone-paved passage, which runs from Curzon Street to Ilay Hill, Berkeley Square, between the high brick garden walls of two lordly mansions. And there, another refuge from the wheel-waves—there, where there was a sweet country sound of leaves rustling and rooks cawing, and where the distantly-musical butcher or baker's boy might have been heard whistling o'er the lea, he fell to building castles, and musing and musing again.

Why was she Viscountess Baddington? Why was she married? Why was she always to be married to somebody, engaged to somebody else? Why was he always to be falling in love with the wrong person? Falling in love! jumping in love, burglariously forcing his way into love; for a Viscountess, and a married Viscountess, must be as a fountain sealed, and as a gate walled up, and as a temple barred with steel and with adamant.

Some men have a faculty for falling in love with the wrong woman. I have. Why did I fall in love with the young person aged forty, marked with the smallpox, and with the stoop in the shoulders, when the grocer's daughter would have had me?—(she told me she would have done so, afterwards.) The young person aged forty died, and the grocer's daughter married the shopman, and they live at Clapham Rise, and have land and beeves, or at least money in the three per cents., which is as good, if not better. Why did I—

Why did Philip Leslie saunter up and down the stone-paved passage, while the leaves rustled and the rooks cawed, building those absurd air-castles of his, till a neighbouring church-clock struck the quarter after the hour; but not a quarter after twelve, no, misery of man, a quarter past one! He fled the passage as though he had just slain a kinsman or a dear friend, or shot a robin-redbreast, or wrung the neck of an albatross, or committed some dark and dreadful deed of the kind. Late again; always too late.

A dozen times, as he made a half-running, half-limping progress towards the awful "14" in Curzon Street, he resolved to abandon the "Cottage-door," and his patroness, for good and all. He would run away again; but whether? He would enlist for a soldier—he wasn't athletic enough; he would enter as a sailor on board a man of war—who would have him, a lubberly landsman, even for a loblolly boy? No; he would risk the ire of that scornful patroness, be the consequences what they might.

Number 14 was a narrow slip of a mansion;—they have re-numbered the houses since, and the Curzon Street of the day, knows not its former numerals—a mansion just large enough for an old lord, who had a young wife, and without any very reasonable expectation of a small family, to dwell in. There was a handsome carriage at the door, the same that—oh woe! woe!—Philip had seen the night before in Wardour Street. The heart of the painter sank within him, as he saw the tall horses, the tall flunkies, and the rosy coachman.

The door was closed. There was a knocker in its midst, so grimly leonine in its cast-iron expression, so relentless—so the wretched painter fancied—towards those who were unpunctual in keeping their appointments, that he dared not, for the life of him, have raised that knocker, even to inflict a single rap on the boss on the panel. There were two evilly-disposed looking bells, too, one on either side of the door: one labelled

"Visitors," the other "Servants." Pride and fear had a hard tussle of it in Philip's perturbed mind, as to which tintinabulum was to be sounded. Pride said "Visitors"—he was an artist, and a gentleman. A gentleman, God help him! Fear said "Servants"—he was an artist; but such a wretchedly poor one; and then, was he not twenty minutes behind his time?

Pride had the best of it at last, and he pulled the "visitors" bell—softly, as he thought, but it rang out with such a sonorous re-echoing, that he felt half-disposed again to run for it.

"What might you want?" asked the same majestic flunkie whom he had seen in Wardour Street, as, opening the door, he held it half ajar, as though afraid that the bell-ringer were some wild animal whom it would have been dangerous to admit.

"This card," the painter said, shortly, handing the lacquy the Viscountess Baddington's tinsanitic pastebord.

The footman glanced at the card, and relaxed the vigour of his defence of the aristocratic fortress so far as to admit Philip within the door. Then, when he had him on an island of door-mat in an ocean of vestibule, chequered in black and white marble, he condescended to cross-gossip him again.

"Any name?"

"Mr. Leslie," the painter answered. "I was to call at one o'clock, by appointment, on Lady Baddington, but I unfortunately over-stayed the time by one quarter of an hour."

"Mr. Leslie," the footman repeated, moving towards the staircase. He seemed sublimely heedless of the last part of the painter's communication, but emphasised the "Mister," as though he thought it rather a liberty than otherwise for a man with such a shabby look about him to give himself a handle to his name, and ring the visitors' bell.

Did your blood never boil, dear reader, at the insolence of a footman. Or perhaps, you have been happy enough to avoid contact throughout your life with that push-legged, push-soled class. There is a philosopher I have heard of—a captain, who goes about London and attends all levees and drawing-rooms, balls and soirées (the exterior thereof, I mean) with a penny cane, for the express purpose of thrashing the footmen's calves, when he can catch them perched on the footboard behind the carriage. He does so, he says, in the discharge of a high moral duty. He castigates these liveried varlets, not as men, but as footmen. I revere that martial philosopher's code, and only wish that my terror of the law of assault did not hinder me from following his example.

The footman came down after the lapse of a few minutes, and saying archly, "You're to wait!" exchanged a wink of portentous significance with an obese porter, who was dozing like a hippopotamus in gold lace in a huge black leathern arbour studded with gilt nails. He so far derogated from the icy brightness of his manner as to point out to the "visitor" a very hard, polished hall-chair, with the Baddington arms emblazoned on the back; and on this French-polished stool of repentance Philip Leslie sat, biting his lips, till the hands of the Baddington hall-clock marked two past meridian.

Then a bell rang from above, not with an angry clangour, but with a clear, silvery, compelled sound. The footman went up stairs, came down again, and addressed the painter:—

"You're to see this way, if you plis!" he vouchsafed to remark.

He said "plis," instead of "please," probably as a compromise between saying something polite, and nothing at all. Philip Leslie followed the footman up the sofly-carpeted stairs, through an ante-chamber and a drawing-room, and at last into a deliciously-furnished boudoir. Here the footman indicated again a chair, but a far different one from the hard polished sedilia below stairs, and, with another intimation that he was to wait, disappeared.

"Carriage is to wait, Tummas," the footman remarked to the fat hall porter. "The old un's a-goin' out."

"Sure-lye!" the hippopotamus in gold lace returned. "And where may my lord be a-goin' now, John-Peter?" He was a reverent man, this hippopotamus, and said "my lord."

"Why, of all places in the world," said the footman addressed as John-Peter, "to Noogate prison."

"To Noogate prison! to Noogate prison!" mused the fat porter, "what the dickens can he be a-goin' a-wisithin' to Noogate prison for?"

"To see his relations, 'praps," the sardonic John-Peter suggested.

"Ah, sure-lye, sure-lye," said the fat porter, "sure-lye."

How long he might have gone on soliloquising is uncertain, but at this moment the soft cushions of the black leathern arbour, studded with gilt nails, asserted their influence over him, and he fell into a corpulent slumber.

(To be continued.)

MADAME RISTORI.

SINCE Madame Ristori's disappearance from England last autumn, she has been performing with the greatest success in Paris, where her second series of performances was even more successful than her first. She has now returned to the Lyceum, where, in addition to her *repertoire* of last season, she has been announced to appear in several new tragedies, one of which, "Camma," has been already played with great success. The author of the new work is Signor Giuseppe Monteuelli, a writer already known to the English public by his translation of Legouvé's "Medea." The action of his tragedy takes place in Galatia, and the scene of the first act is laid in a druidical temple.

Sinato, a warrior and a chief, is married to Camma, a priestess of Corivena. Sinoro, tetrarch of Pessinus, is passionately and desperately in love with Camma, and does not hesitate to murder her husband in hope of one day being able to obtain her hand himself. Camma was devotedly attached to her husband, and is heart-broken when she hears of his death. Madame Ristori's acting, in the scene in which the messenger enters to inform her that her husband is no more, is one of the most remarkable parts of her performance. She is thrown into a state of utter prostration, from which she is only roused by a dim suspicion which dawns upon her, and goes on increasing until at last it assumes all the distinctness of a fact. The object of this suspicion is indeed the murderer himself, and Camma resolves to encourage his affection, with the view of leading him on to a confession of his guilt.

In the second act, the best-written scene in the piece occurs, one in which Signor Monteuelli exhibits no ordinary dramatic skill. Camma having granted an interview to Sinoro, encourages him to confess the extent of his passion by affecting to listen to it with pleasure, while her horror at his treachery and his presumptuous love is expressed in "asides." She represents to Sinoro the wild passion with which Sinato, her murdered husband, loved her, impresses upon him that there is no act of daring which Sinato would not have attempted, no crime that he would not have committed, no atrocity at which he would have hesitated, for her sake. Sinoro hastens to assure her that there is no proof of affection which he would shrink from giving her; and he is at last led to the avowal that it was by his hand Sinato perished. Madame Ristori's concealed, concentrated rage, which appears every instant on the point of exploding, is something terrible, but she has still to command her passion, and to make the murderer repeat in plain language his infamous confession.

Camma, nearly dumb with horror, nevertheless preserves sufficient strength to be able to give her hand to the assassin, as a pledge of her love, muttering as she does so, with a terrible expression of joy on her countenance, "Mia preda afferro!" "I grasp my prey." Madame Ristori's acting throughout this admirable scene was equal to her very best efforts in "Medea" and "Marie Stuart."

In the third and last act all is ready for the marriage of Camma with Sinoro. Camma is in a state of intense nervous excitement, and in preparing the nuptial cup for herself and Sinoro is really preparing the death of both. Her face becomes perfectly transfigured as she views her victim swallowing the draught, and in a state of ecstasy, she exclaims to Sinoro, when suspicions are expressed as to its nature, "What cup could I partake with thee unless it were poisoned?"

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE held its 103rd anniversary on Tuesday, at the Crystal Palace. Lord Stanley presided. The annual prizes of the society had been distributed earlier in the day.

POLICE.

INCIDENT IN THE DOMESTIC LIFE OF Mrs. RENT.—Mrs. Rahl was charged with assaulting Catherine Bottle, her servant. On Monday last complainant was about to leave when defendant desired to examine her boxes. She refused, and in the presence of a policeman, and left to fetch one, but on her return with one, he was refused admission. The policeman then tried to throw the servant's bonnet box into the street, and when the servant said the mistress was "no good," struck her in the face right and left, and tore her bonnet. The defence was, that the complainant had been troublesome, and had taken the liberty of playing upon the piano. The result was denied. Fined ten shillings and costs.

EXTRAORDINARY JOCULARITY OF A FOREIGNER.—Augustus Lascelles, a Frenchman, was charged with attempting to commit Pierre Sartori.

It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor, that about six o'clock on Monday morning, he was proceeding down the Haymarket, dressed in the Turkish costume, when the prisoner came behind him, and seized him by the throat, with the intention, no doubt, of garrotting and then robbing him. Prosecutor, after a struggle, managed to get out of the prisoner's grasp, and called "Police." A constable came up and rescued him from the prisoner, who was taken to the station.

The prisoner, in defence, said it was all a joke, and by touching the prosecutor he merely intended to frighten him. Mr. Bingham was inclined to think that a robbery was not intended. A serious assault had, however, been committed, for which he must be fined 25s. or two months.

RENNING A MUCK.—Miguel Peranis, a Chilian sailor, was brought before Mr. Yardley, charged with cutting and wounding John Webster and Charles Bishop; and Joseph Williams, a boarding-house keeper, aged 43, of 71, St. George street, was charged with assaulting a policeman, and endeavouring to rescue Peranis from his custody.

The police surgeon said he had attended to the case of one of the wounded men, John Webster, an English sailor, who had received two severe wounds from a knife—one under the armpit on the right side, and the other on the shoulder. The wound under the armpit was one inch deep, and an inch in length.

Police-constable A said that a man named Charles Bishop, who was also wounded by the prisoner, was in the London Hospital to the most imminent danger. The prisoner had "ripped" him up. He was fearfully wounded.

John Webster said he was pushing through a crowd last night, with a young woman, when Peranis ran at him with a knife and stabbed him twice. He gave no provocation, whatever.

Florence McCarthy, a young man, saw the prisoner Peranis run after Webster and Bishop last night, and stab them. After he had stabbed Bishop, he kicked him. The other fellow was completely ripped up.

Paine said Peranis rushed into the house of Williams after he had wounded the two Englishmen. Witness followed him, and was assaulted by Williams, who struck him, and said no policeman should enter his house.

Mr. Yardley fined Williams 45s. and remanded Peranis.

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS.—Thomas Ives, a waiter, was charged before Mr. Combe with assaulting and stabbing his wife.

Complainant, whose face was much disfigured, stated that he had been married to the defendant twenty years, and had thirteen children by him. On the previous night, they both went home together, and as soon as they entered the house he abused her and struck her. He then threw a chair at her, and broke everything he could lay his hands on; and, as he was about to quit the house, he stabbed her near the right eye with a knife he had in his hand.

The wife informed his worship that he continually ill-used her, but at the same time she did not want to hurt him, provided he would be kind to her for the future.

Mr. Combe told her he could not allow such a murderous assault to pass over. He should sentence the prisoner to six months' hard labour, and at the expiration of that time, he must find bail for six months longer.

Prisoner (laughing):—That's just what I want. That'll cure her out.

BURGLARY.—William Henrick and John Stevens were brought up on remand charged with burglary. On the night of the 12th inst., the prisoners entered the house No. 6, Ensign street, by the area door, which had been left open. They got on the roof by the attic window, and, according to the parrot to No. 1, where they entered, and, being surprised, got out at the back of the house and attempted to escape by the garden, but were captured after a sharp chase, in which Henrick was so severely injured that he had to be taken to the hospital, and remained there for a few days.

A few days before the robbery the prisoners had purchased an oil and Italian warehouse the materials for the rope-solder which was found in the house after the capture of the prisoners.

Sergeant Mavett, of the N division, saw the prisoners taking at some room in front of the shop, and having suspicions, watched them. After they had left he spoke to his witnesses, who said they had bought a quantity of rope. Henrick begged of his worship to dispose of the case summarily, in which case he would promise to leave the country as soon as his term of imprisonment expired, "if his health would permit him."

Stevens said he was not concerned in the burglary. He entered with the police to assist them, and was taken into custody by a mistake of the constable.

Both prisoners were committed for trial.

IMPUDENCE.—C. Bayley and Thomas Doyle were indicted at the Middlesex Sessions for stealing three loaves of bread, and for fraud.

One of the prosecutors was a dealer in Goldsmith's Row, and the prisoners called upon him and said they had been told to repair his scales, and that if it were not done, he would be fined. They did something to the scales, for which they charged 3s. 6d., which he paid. On another day they went to a baker's at Haggerstone, and without saying a word, turned the scales upside down, said they were dreadfully out of repair, and Bayley knocked a piece of lead into the scale.

They charged 1s. 6d. for that. The baker said he would send them the money if they would leave their address, but Bayley said they must have it there and then. Finding that the baker would not give them the money, Bayley said he would take it out in bread, and taking up three loaves from the window, he and his accomplice walked off. They were taken into custody that afternoon, and there appeared to be no doubt that for some time they had been pursuing the same system. Guilty: eight months' hard labour.

MONEY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

NOTWITHSTANDING that the Directors of the Bank of England have reduced the minimum rate of discount to 6 per cent., and that the private bankers generally have lowered their quotations for the best paper about one half per cent., the market for home bills has been rather inactive, but without leading to any material change in the quotations compared with last week. The stock of gold has been trifling, and the supply in the hands of the holders is still very moderate. The leading cause of the present inactivity of the market may be traced to the unfavorable accounts from the Paris Bourse, and the enormous supplies of silver which continue to be shipped to India and China. At present, there are no signs of a falling off in the demand for that metal, as the profit on shipments is still large. From the United States, we continue to receive large quantities of gold, and the banks both in the Bank of England and in the Bank of France are steadily improving. These are certainly favourable features; but, on the other hand, our advances from the manufacturing districts are showing a decline in the weekly consumption of cotton from 500,000 to 400,000 bales, and it is a matter of doubt as to whether the Bank of England will be in a position this year to reduce the quotation to 5 or even to 4 per cent. The exports of gold to meet the demand to meet the evidences are comparatively trifling; but some large parcels continue to leave for France and Germany to purchase silver for the East.

This drain has been productive of serious inconvenience on the Continent, but, at present, there are no signs of a falling off in it. The 3 per cent. Consols for 1857, which were done at 93½, 94½, and 95½, the new 4 per cent. Consols, 93½, 94½, and 95½, and the reduced, 92½, 93½, and 94½. The 5 per cent. Consols, 94½, 95½, and 96½. The 6 per cent. Consols, 95½, 96½, and 97½. The 7 per cent. Consols, 96½, 97½, and 98½. The 8 per cent. Consols, 97½, 98½, and 99½. The 9 per cent. Consols, 98½, 99½, and 100½. The 10 per cent. Consols, 99½, 100½, and 101½. The 11 per cent. Consols, 100½, 101½, and 102½. The 12 per cent. Consols, 101½, 102½, and 103½. The 13 per cent. Consols, 102½, 103½, and 104½. The 14 per cent. Consols, 103½, 104½, and 105½. The 15 per cent. Consols, 104½, 105½, and 106½. The 16 per cent. Consols, 105½, 106½, and 107½. The 17 per cent. Consols, 106½, 107½, and 108½. The 18 per cent. Consols, 107½, 108½, and 109½. The 19 per cent. Consols, 108½, 109½, and 110½. The 20 per cent. Consols, 109½, 110½, and 111½. The 21 per cent. Consols, 110½, 111½, and 112½. The 22 per cent. Consols, 111½, 112½, and 113½. The 23 per cent. Consols, 112½, 113½, and 114½. The 24 per cent. Consols, 113½, 114½, and 115½. The 25 per cent. Consols, 114½, 115½, and 116½. The 26 per cent. Consols, 115½, 116½, and 117½. The 27 per cent. Consols, 116½, 117½, and 118½. The 28 per cent. Consols, 117½, 118½, and 119½. The 29 per cent. Consols, 118½, 119½, and 120½. The 30 per cent. Consols, 119½, 120½, and 121½. The 31 per cent. Consols, 120½, 121½, and 122½. The 32 per cent. Consols, 121½, 122½, and 123½. The 33 per cent. Consols, 122½, 123½, and 124½. The 34 per cent. Consols, 123½, 124½, and 125½. The 35 per cent. Consols, 124½, 125½, and 126½. The 36 per cent. Consols, 125½, 126½, and 127½. The 37 per cent. Consols, 126½, 127½, and 128½. The 38 per cent. Consols, 127½, 128½, and 129½. The 39 per cent. Consols, 128½, 129½, and 130½. The 40 per cent. Consols, 129½, 130½, and 131½. The 41 per cent. Consols, 130½, 131½, and 132½. The 42 per cent. Consols, 131½, 132½, and 133½. The 43 per cent. Consols, 132½, 133½, and 134½. The 44 per cent. Consols, 133½, 134½, and 135½. The 45 per cent. Consols, 134½, 135½, and 136½. The 46 per cent. Consols, 135½, 136½, and 137½. The 47 per cent. Consols, 136½, 137½, and 138½. The 48 per cent. Consols, 137½, 138½, and 139½. The 49 per cent. Consols, 138½, 139½, and 140½. The 50 per cent. Consols, 139½, 140½, and 141½. The 51 per cent. Consols, 140½, 141½, and 142½. The 52 per cent. Consols, 141½, 142½, and 143½. The 53 per cent. Consols, 142½, 143½, and 144½. The 54 per cent. Consols, 143½, 144½, and 145½. The 55 per cent. Consols, 144½, 145½, and 146½. The 56 per cent. Consols, 145½, 146½, and 147½. The 57 per cent. Consols, 146½, 147½, and 148½. The 58 per cent. Consols, 147½, 148½, and 149½. The 59 per cent. Consols, 148½, 149½, and 150½. The 60 per cent. Consols, 149½, 150½, and 151½. The 61 per cent. Consols, 150½, 151½, and 152½. The 62 per cent. Consols, 151½, 152½, and 153½. The 63 per cent. Consols, 152½, 153½, and 154½. The 64 per cent. Consols, 153½, 154½, and 155½. The 65 per cent. Consols, 154½, 155½, and 156½. The 66 per cent. Consols, 155½, 156½, and 157½. The 67 per cent. Consols, 156½, 157½, and 158½. The 68 per cent. Consols, 157½, 158½, and 159½. The 69 per cent. Consols, 158½, 159½, and 160½. The 70 per cent. Consols, 159½, 160½, and 161½. The 71 per cent. Consols, 160½, 161½, and 162½. The 72 per cent. Consols, 161½, 162½, and 163½. The 73 per cent. Consols, 162½, 163½, and 164½. The 74 per cent. Consols, 163½, 164½, and 165½. The 75 per cent. Consols, 164½, 165½, and 166½. The 76 per cent. Consols, 165½, 166½, and 167½. The 77 per cent. Consols, 166½, 167½, and 168½. The 78 per cent. Consols, 167½, 168½, and 169½. The 79 per cent. Consols, 168½, 169½, and 170½. The 80 per cent. Consols, 169½, 170½, and 171½. The 81 per cent. Consols, 170½, 171½, and 172½. The 82 per cent. Consols, 171½, 172½, and 173½. The 83 per cent. Consols, 172½, 173½, and 174½. The 84 per cent. Consols, 173½, 174½, and 175½. The 85 per cent. Consols, 174½, 175½, and 176½. The 86 per cent. Consols, 175½, 176½, and 177½. The 87 per cent. Consols, 176½, 177½, and 178½. The 88 per cent. Consols, 177½, 178½, and 179½. The 89 per cent. Consols, 178½, 179½, and 180½. The 90 per cent. Consols, 179½, 180½, and 181½. The 91 per cent. Consols, 180½, 181½, and 182½. The 92 per cent. Consols, 181½, 182½, and 183½. The 93 per cent. Consols, 182½, 183½, and 184½. The 94 per cent. Consols, 183½, 184½, and 185½. The 95 per cent. Consols, 184½, 185½, and 186½. The 96 per cent. Consols, 185½, 186½, and 187½. The 97 per cent. Consols, 186½, 187½, and 188½. The 98 per cent. Consols, 187½, 188½, and 189½. The 99 per cent. Consols, 188½, 189½, and 190½. The 100 per cent. Consols, 189½, 190½, and 191½. The 101 per cent. Consols, 190½, 191½, and 192½. The 102 per cent. Consols, 191½, 192½, and 193½. The 103 per cent. Consols, 192½, 193½, and 194½. The 104 per cent. Consols, 193½, 194½, and 195½. The 105 per cent. Consols, 194½, 195½, and 196½. The 106 per cent. Consols, 195½, 196½, and 197½. The 107 per cent. Consols, 196½, 197½, and 198½. The 108 per cent. Consols, 197½, 198½, and 199½. The 109 per cent. Consols, 198½, 199½, and 200½. The 110 per cent. Consols, 199½, 200½, and 201½. The 111 per cent. Consols, 200½, 201½, and 202½. The 112 per cent. Consols, 201½, 202½, and 203½. The 113 per cent. Consols, 202½, 203½, and 204½. The 114 per cent. Consols, 203½, 204½, and 205½. The 115 per cent. Consols, 204½, 205½, and 206½. The 116 per cent. Consols, 205½, 206½, and 207½. The 117 per cent. Consols, 206½, 207½, and 208½. The 118 per cent. Consols, 207½, 208½, and 209½. The 119 per cent. Consols, 208½, 209½, and 210½. The 120 per cent. Consols, 209½, 210½, and 211½. The 121 per cent. Consols, 210½, 211½, and 212½. The 122 per cent. Consols, 211½, 212½, and 213½. The 123 per cent. Consols, 212½, 213½, and 214½. The 124 per cent. Consols, 213½, 214½, and 215½. The 125 per cent. Consols, 214½, 215½, and 216½. The 126 per cent. Consols, 215½, 216½, and 217½. The 127 per cent. Consols, 216½, 217½, and 218½. The 128 per cent. Consols, 217½, 218½, and 219½. The 129 per cent. Consols, 218½, 219½, and 220½. The 130 per cent. Consols, 219½, 220½, and 221½. The 131 per cent. Consols, 220½, 221½, and 222½. The 132 per cent. Consols, 221½, 222½, and 223½. The 133 per cent. Consols, 222½, 223½, and 224½. The 134 per cent. Consols, 223½, 224½, and 225½. The 135 per cent. Consols, 224½, 225½, and 226½. The 136 per cent. Consols, 225½, 226½, and 227½. The 137 per cent. Consols, 226½, 227½, and 228½. The 138 per cent. Consols, 227½, 228½, and 229½. The 139 per cent. Consols, 228½, 229½, and 230½. The 140 per cent. Consols, 229½, 230½, and 231½. The 141 per cent. Consols, 230½, 231½, and 232½. The 142 per cent. Consols, 231½, 232½, and 233½. The 143 per cent. Consols, 232½, 233½, and 234½. The 144 per cent. Consols, 233½, 234½, and 235½. The 145 per cent. Consols, 234½, 235½, and 236½. The 146 per cent. Consols, 235½, 236½, and 237½. The 147 per cent. Consols, 236½, 237½, and 238½. The 148 per cent. Consols, 237½, 238½, and 239½. The 149 per cent. Consols, 238½, 239½, and 240½. The 150 per cent. Consols, 239½, 240½, and 241½. The 151 per cent. Consols, 240½, 241½, and 242½. The 152 per cent. Consols, 241½, 242½, and 243½. The 153 per cent. Consols, 242½, 243½, and 244½. The 154 per cent. Consols, 243½, 244½, and 245½. The 155 per cent. Consols, 244½, 245½, and 246½. The 156 per cent. Consols, 245½, 246½, and 247½. The 157 per cent. Consols, 246½, 247½, and 248½. The 158 per cent. Consols, 247½, 248½, and 249½. The 159 per cent. Consols, 248½, 249½, and 250½. The 160 per cent. Consols, 249½, 250½, and 251½. The 161 per cent. Consols, 250½, 251½, and 252½. The 162 per cent. 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Printed by JOHN HARRIS, of 15, Fleet Street, in the Parish of St. Dunston, in the City of London, and Published by him at 148, Fleet Street, in the Parish and City aforesaid.—SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1837.

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PREFACE TO VOLUME FIFTH.

THE Volume which we have again the honour to lay before our readers is remarkable for the prominence of one painful subject—the Indian Mutiny colours its pages like the reflection of a great fire in the sky. On this subject the mind of England has exhausted thought, and the heart of England exhausted feeling. A journal, of which the business is to record, describe, and delineate contemporary history, must perform its task not only with fidelity, but with courage. It must not shrink from facing the most painful features of the day's events; and, by such a process, it at once instructs the public and animates their passions. During the progress of remarkable events, a craving for *reality* marks the popular mind. This is ministered to more decidedly by the pencil than even by the pen. Mere verbal description leaves too much to many imaginations; and Art comes in to give body to Thought, as with the wand of an enchanter. What a people has thus been taught to know, as it were, corporeally, adheres to its memory with peculiar force; and if it be right, as it undoubtedly is, that the zeal of the public should be kindled in such a cause as that in which we have been fighting in India, we may hope to have done something towards it by the efforts of our paper.

Our readers will perceive, in turning over the Volume, that most of the scenes made famous by the contest have received at our hands Pictorial Illustration. *Here*, is to be seen some sketch of the strange, but magnificent features of the Eastern world—the mosques and minarets, the feathery palms, the mango groves, the picturesque population with their moving trains of elephants and camels. *There*, we have the external aspect of the life of our countrymen, holding out against bloodthirsty hordes, or arrayed in the order of war, with cheerfulness and eagerness, against the beleaguered town.

But a duty still more necessary, and far more grateful, has been to give—as occasion offered, and means existed—portraits of those gallant men who have saved our Indian Empire. The summer that has last passed over us has produced a crop of heroes. Whenever the enemy ceased to perpetrate treacherous massacres—whenever they tried *war*—that instant they met vengeance. A race of great men fell upon them—beat them in the field, in the villages, everywhere—and drove them from the town where they had hoisted their royal standard of rebellion. The vehement yet sober energy of Havelock—the fiery ardour of Neill—the kingly heart of Lawrence—Nicholson's forward zeal—Wilson's sagacious determination—and Outram's chivalrous spirit—what noble associations the mention of such names and qualities excites! The laurels won by some of these can now only be planted on their graves. Others survive—we hope to be received, with welcome, safe in their native land. All have won a place in the portrait gallery of the nation they have served. Without them, reinforcements would have arrived only to begin a war of years, and to hear of such calamities as the world scarcely ever saw. But these great men were equal to the occasion, and, thanks to them, our new Volume closes with the tidings of the triumph of Sir Colin Campbell and the final relief of Lucknow.

While Indian subjects are the predominant ones of this Volume, we have not neglected such themes—historical or social—as have formed topics of public interest. Contemporary exhibitions, notable statesmen, personages of many kinds—whether European Princes or Ambassadors from Siam—may be contemplated, *velut in speculo*, within our scarlet covers. The ancient world of Art is represented by a Westminster Play—the modern, by a Handel Festival. We boast Catholic tastes—draw princes in their opera-box, and do not disdain the recruiting corporal and his batch of rustics in their humble tavern. To picture an age to a nation is necessarily a comprehensive business, and, with our book itself before the reader, why should we weary him with details?

Our general principles are, we hope, sufficiently well known. They are constitutional and popular, and expressly urged in such a way as to promote the great causes of education, the friendly union of classes, and political moderation. Events have given us no reason to regret the view we took of the Indian mutiny. We neither bragged nor croaked; but we urged that the national duty was to attack the mutineers with every vigour, and to chastise them with every severity. We have been hopeful through all phases of the struggle. We have not tried to make political capital out of any of the events of it; and generally, we hope, have taken a wider and more generous view of this, as of other things, than is (unfortunately) common with a part of the Cheap Press.

It remains only to add, that we renew our hope of continuing to deserve the respect of our subscribers. Our object from the first was to show that a high-class style of journal is not necessarily bound to be dear in its price, or restricted in its circulation.

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